BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO. 120 BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 28 | PRICE ₹6**

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**Trump scores a big legal victory over IRS** as the agency the Prez has long reviled was barred by Justice Dept from continuing 'known & unknown' probes into his tax returns, PAGE OPP

**Mahfuj Alam, former special assistant to Mohd Yunus,** says minimal reforms, inaction over persecution of minorities and the interim govt's 'embracing' of hardline Islamist party JeI **paved the way for banned Awami League to 'effectively' return to Bangladesh's political arena,** PAGE OPP

Taijul Islam claimed 6/120 as **Bangladesh beat Pakistan by 78 runs** at Sylhet to complete a clean sweep of the 2-match series and move to **5th place in ICC World Test Championship standings, one spot ahead of India,** P 15

**Rahul Gandhi calls PM Modi and HM Amit Shah 'traitors',** drawing a furious response from BJP prez Nitin Nabin, who slams Cong MP's remark as reflective of his 'anarchic' mindset and describes him as a 'rahu' for public life, P 13

# India-Italy ties hit sweet spot: Deals on def, critical minerals

## Joint Statement Condemns Terror, Pahalgam Attack

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**New Delhi:** India and Italy upgraded their relationship to a special strategic partnership, launched a defence industrial roadmap, and signed an agreement for cooperation in critical minerals as Italian PM Giorgia Meloni hosted her counterpart Narendra Modi for talks during the first bilateral visit by an Indian prime minister to the country in 26 years.

There were 12 other outcomes from the visit, including an MoU to prevent tax crimes and money laundering, and an MoU to boost connectivity through cooperation in maritime transport and ports. Both leaders backed the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) project and called for concrete steps to advance the initiative in 2026.

More than the outcomes though, it was the display of what Meloni described as her genuine friendship with Modi based on mutual respect and trust that attracted attention, as Modi gifted her 'Melody' toffees and the leaders posed for a selfie at the famed Colosseum. The PM also extended an invite to Meloni to visit India, which she accepted.

In a joint statement, the Italian PM joined Modi in strongly condemning cross-border terrorism, including the April 2025 Pahalgam terrorist attack.

With both countries maintaining a significant presence in Africa, they also agreed to work together on "concrete" projects there, including in healthcare, connectivity, AI, and renewable energy.

In his media statement, Modi said that close cooperation in defence and security was a symbol of deep mutual trust between India and Italy. "Cooperation is increasing between the defence industries of both the countries as well as between our armies. Our defence industrial roadmap has paved the way for co-development and co-production," he said.

▶Through dialogue, P 11

### It's stocklatey: 'Toffee diplomacy' in Rome, unrelated Parle stock surges back home

PM Modi appeared to play on 'Melodi', the hashtag that goes viral every time he meets his Italian counterpart, as he gifted Giorgia Meloni a sampler of 'Melody' toffees on Wednesday during his visit. "PM Modi brought as a gift, a very, very good toffee: Melody," Meloni said, before both broke into a hearty laugh.

Within hours, the 12-second video notched up more than 10 crore views, and, shares of Parle Industries — a company unrelated to Melody-maker Parle Products — hit the 5% upper circuit. Parle Products tried to tap into the moment, posting a video on Insta with the caption, "Sweetening relationships since 1983".

Back home, opposition parties took aim at the PM's 'toffee diplomacy', with leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi saying the PM was "busy handing out candies in Italy" while "an economic storm is raging in the country". P 11 & 14

## ₹ hits 100/$ in 1-yr forward, closes at 96.82 in spot trade

**Mumbai:** One-year outright forward rates for the rupee breached the 100 level intraday while the domestic currency slid to a new low of 96.96 in the spot during intraday trade, before closing at 96.82, down 29 paise from its previous close of 96.53, **reports Mayur Shetty.**

A one-year outright forward spot rupee transaction is a foreign-exchange contract where today you agree the exchange rate for a USD/INR trade that will settle one year later. The premium on one-year outright forward spot rupee indicates the interest-rate differential and hedging demand built into USD/INR forward rate, not just a prediction of where the spot rate will be in a year.

▶Impacts...inflows, P 14

## SC: Animal lovers can protect strays if they take responsibility for bites

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**New Delhi:** Heeding a chorus of pleas by multiple animal right activists and groups to allow them to protect or maintain stray dogs in public spaces, Supreme Court on Wednesday said they can feed and take care of canines, but will have to face tortious liability for any injury caused to the public by the animals.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria said that right to protect stray dogs in public spaces cannot be divorced from the obligation to ensure that such actions do not result in harm to others and made it clear that right and responsibility go together.

It said, "While considerable emphasis has been placed on the protection, feeding and continued presence of community dogs in public and institutional spaces, a pertinent question arises as to whether such individuals, organisations and associations would be willing to assume corresponding legal responsibility for the consequences arising therefrom."

> Any framework... must necessarily be accompanied by clearly defined principles of accountability. The **assertion of rights or interests in favour of such animals cannot operate in isolation,** divorced from the corresponding responsibility to safeguard human life and safety
> —Supreme Court

▶Ensure accountability, P 11

## SC orders GBA polls by Aug 31, rules out any more extension

**New Delhi:** Supreme Court Wednesday granted time till Aug 31 and ruled out any more extension for holding elections to the Bengaluru civic body. The earlier deadline was June 30.

On Wednesday, a bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi passed the order after senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the state, referred to the shortage of manpower due to the Census work and the upcoming special intensive revision of electoral rolls in the state. Budgetary allocation had been done, he said.

The tenure of the earlier elected civic body ended on Sept 10, 2020, and a govt-appointed administrator has been looking into day-to-day affairs since. PTI

## MP CM: Will seek CBI probe into Twisha's dowry death case

**Bhopal:** Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav Wednesday said his govt would seek a CBI probe into Noida woman Twisha Sharma's death over alleged dowry harassment after a Bhopal court rejected her family's plea for a second autopsy at AIIMS Delhi, **report Ashutosh Shukla & Sudeept Mishra.**

▶Newlywed found dead, P 8

The court said the first autopsy at AIIMS Bhopal showed no major defects. It also ordered preservation of her body and sought information on ultra-low freezer facilities after police said no facility in Bhopal has a -80°C freezer to preserve the body.

Twisha, 33, allegedly died by suicide on May 12 at her in-laws' house.

## 'Completely AI-generated?' Row erupts over C'wealth award to Caribbean writer

**London:** The literary world erupted in a heated debate after a Commonwealth prize-winning short story, 'The Serpent in the Grove', was accused online of being machine-written, raising questions about literary authenticity and whether judges can still tell humans from bots, **reports Naomi Canton.**

Trinidadian writer Jamir Nazir won the Caribbean regional prize in the Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2026. Nazir, of east Indian heritage, won £2,500 for the story about a cocoa farmer, examining endurance and marital silence through his young wife Sita, an orphaned village woman trapped in a loveless marriage.

Soon after, social media users ran the unpublished work through AI-detection tools and declared it machine-made. Some falsely claimed Nazir himself was AI-generated. Lankan author Yudhanjaya Wijeratne posted that Pangram Labs had flagged the story as "completely AI-generated", adding: "I think Granta and the judges just got taken for a ride by Claude."

> It may be that the judges have now awarded a prize to an instance of AI plagiarism – we don't yet know, and perhaps we never will know
> *—Sigrid Rausing, publisher of Granta, which published the award-winning story by* ***Jamir Nazir*** *(in pic)*

▶Contd on: Page Opp

## End of road for open jeeps as state tightens safari rules

**Bengaluru:** Open jeep safaris may soon become a thing of the past in Karnataka, as state govt moves to tighten tourist interaction with wildlife after the tragedy at Dubare elephant camp, **reports Niranjan Kaggere.**

On Wednesday, forest minister Eshwar B Khandre directed officials to phase out modified open vehicles and replace them with secure buses with protective barriers for safaris in tiger reserves and wildlife sanctuaries across the state.

The new safety measures will apply to safari operations in Bandipur National Park, Nagarahole, Kali, Biligiri Ranganatha, and Bhadra tiger reserves.

▶Right time to adopt..., P 5

## 22 YRS ON, ARSENAL GUN TO GLORY

Getty Images

Arsenal fans celebrate their club winning the English Premier League after Manchester City failed to beat Bournemouth, sparking wild festivities in north London. The club, founded around 140 years ago by munitions factory workers, won the world's richest football league for the first time in 22 years — and for the first time under its billionaire owner Stan Kroenke. The season could get even better for Arsenal as it's set to compete in the UEFA Champions League final against Paris Saint-Germain later this month | P 16

## DKS: Ready for debate, 80% farmers back Bidadi project

**Bengaluru:** Days after former Prime Minister and JD (S) supremo H D Deve Gowda hurled allegations of "land mafia" over the proposed Rs 18,000-crore Bidadi township project, deputy chief minister D K Shivakumar Wednesday challenged him and his son, Union minister H D Kumaraswamy, to an open debate in three days.

"Kumaraswamy wanted a debate (on the Bidadi township project). Let him decide time and place. Gowda may join in, too," the deputy CM said, claiming nearly 80% of farmers have given consent to the project at Bidadi, an industrial enclave 30km from Bengaluru.

Village-wise final notifications for land acquisition will be issued in three days. The govt is set to hand out compensation from early June, he said. TNN

**TOWNSHIP ROW**

- The ₹18,000-crore project **proposes to acquire 7,481 acres** across 9 villages near Bengaluru
- State govt will issue land **acquisition notices in 3 days**
- Govt to start **compensating farmers from early June**
- A farmer says **compensation**'s been fixed up to **₹2.5cr per acre**
- **H D Kumaraswamy** demands acquisition halt, **calls project 'official real estate business'**
- D K Shivakumar says it was **first notified during HDK's tenure**

▶'HDK govt 1st notified', P 5

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karnataka information
Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah and Hon'ble Minister Shri Ramalinga Reddy distributing free bus tickets to women under the Shakthi scheme

Bangalore Times

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After a drama-filled outing at a suburban Mumbai hospital, Salman Khan opened to Mayank Shekhar about his mixed reaction

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# After SC order, city builds shelters for 2k stray dogs; activists worried

## So Far, 2.6k To Be Removed From Streets

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**Bengaluru:** After Supreme Court's recent directive to remove stray dogs from institutional premises and shift them to designated places, the city is building shelter homes with a capacity to house 2,100 dogs across five city corporations of Greater Bengaluru Authority. These homes are expected to be ready before Aug.

While civic agencies have been making ground-level preparations, most facilities are at varying stages of execution. Civic authorities have started identifying stray dogs in institutional areas. Corporation officials confirmed the dogs will not be picked up from the public places until the shelters are ready.

The multi-pronged exercise follows the Supreme Court directive of Nov 7, 2025, that mandates local bodies to identify stray dogs within institutional areas such as schools, colleges, hospitals, sports complexes, bus depots and railway stations, and relocate them to shelters after sterilisation and vaccination. The court directed that the stray dogs removed from such institutional premises should not be released at the same location, as was the case earlier.

Officials have so far identified 2,696 institutional stray dogs across Bengaluru, including dogs found around campuses, institutions and other establishments. Of these, north accounts for 901 dogs, followed by west (591), central (504), east (369) and south (331).

A tender has been floated to engage NGOs for maintenance, administration and day-to-day management of the shelters, once operational. The court observed that implementation of Animal Birth Control Rules, 2001, has been "ineffective" across jurisdictions. ABC rules state that the capture-sterilise-vaccinate-release model as the principal method for controlling stray dog population, prohibiting indiscriminate culling and requiring municipal authorities to undertake sterilisation and vaccination in coordination with animal welfare organisations.

TOI

**UNDER CONSTRUCTION:** A shelter being built by civic authorities. Officials said the dogs will not be picked up from public spaces until the shelters are ready

**AT VARYING STAGES OF EXECUTION**

| Corpn | Shelter at | No. of dogs identified | Capacity | Completion |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North | Medi Agrahara | 901 | 500 | May-end |
| South | S Bingipura | 331 | 100 | Early June |
| Central | S Bingipura | 504 | 500 | June 30 |
| East | Basavanapura | 369 | 500 | June 30 |
| West | Sajjepalya | 591 | 500 | Aug |

(Source: Animal husbandry dept; south & central zones to have shelters in one area)

**Bengaluru city saw a total of 10,423 dog-bite cases from Jan to March this year, of which 6,254 were attributed to stray dogs and the rest to pets. Five city corporations together have eight ABC centres**

Bengaluru city saw a total of 10,423 dog-bite cases from Jan to March this year, of which 6,254 were attributed to stray dogs and the rest to pets. Five city corporations together have eight ABC centres.

Animal activists have expressed concern over the implications of the order. Sathwin Putta, an activist from South Bengaluru Cares, said the 'one-size-fits-all' approach could set back the progress made in stray dog management in municipalities. "It results in gross injustice to innocent animals which may have peacefully lived alongside humans and will now be confined for life," he said.

Sujaya Jagadish from Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said the focus must shift to ensuring the order is implemented correctly. "We're worried about non-compliant shelters being built to house institutional dogs. Once operational, there is no going back. Overcrowded and unhygienic shelters could trigger disease outbreaks, harming both animals and people," she said.

# Student forced to hold drugs, blackmailed with video by 6

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**Bengaluru**: A 19-year-old first-year BSc LLB student at a private university went through a horrible ordeal after he was allegedly lured to a lodge by his junior under the pretext of meeting friends. He was allegedly threatened, assaulted and robbed by a six youths, including minors.

The victim, Aabid (name changed), a resident of RT Nagar, told police he completed PU last year from an international residential school near Kengeri. While he was in PU, one of the accused — a 17-year-old — was studying in class 10 in the same school and they knew each other.

This year, both joined different colleges. The junior messaged and called Aabid on Instagram on May 16. The next day, he again made an Instagram call and insisted on meeting him along with other mutual friends. Aabid reached Vijayanagar with another friend. He then received the location of a lodge from the junior's friend, Harsha.

The duo reached the lodge around 5pm. The junior took them to a room where they initially spoke casually about studies, the victim said.

The situation turned frightening after the junior asked Aabid's friend to leave. The junior told Aabid to stay in the room for another five minutes, saying his elder brother would pick them up in a car. A few minutes later, five others barged into the room. All six asked the victim how much money he had. When he said he had none, they forced him to hold drugs and a lethal weapon, and recorded a video on their mobile phone to blackmail him. They threatened to leak the video if he failed to pay money, Aabid told police.

Aabid pleaded with them to delete the video and leave him unharmed. They later took Aabid in an auto to Nagarabhavi around 6pm. They stopped at a deserted place where they assaulted him, snatched his mobile and made repeated attempts to take loans in Aabid's name through his phone. When they failed, they robbed him of his phone, wristwatch and earbuds before abandoning him on the roadside around 8.30pm, Aabid said.

On May 18, he went to Byatarayanapura police station with his parents and lodged a complaint. Police arrested 19-year-old Harsha and two juveniles, including the junior, and efforts are on to nab others. The accused said they wanted to rob Aabid as he belonged to a rich family, and make quick money.

### 3 women nabbed for robbing passengers

**Bengaluru:** Railway Protection Force (RPF) caught three women from Maharashtra at KR Pura railway station last week for robbing female passengers.

According to RPF, the three were tracked based on analysis of 'Rail Madad' theft complaints. A dedicated Theft of Passenger Belongings (TOPB) team of Bengaluru Cantonment circle verified CCTV footage and found how the gang operated.

The three women — Heena Shaik, 45, Kabutra Bhai, 48, and Sakeena, 30, all residents of Solapur in Maharashtra — would target women passengers about to board trains or waiting on platforms. They would get in crowded trains and snatch valuables from their bags.

On Saturday afternoon, the RPF team was tracking passengers of 12640 Brindavan Express. They noticed the three women moving near the end of platform nos. 2 and 3 and caught them.

# Retired cop tries to get loan to buy MUV, duped of ₹6 lakh

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**Bengaluru:** A retired policeman, who wanted to buy a Toyota Innova, allegedly lost Rs 6.3 lakh to a fraudster, claiming to be the agent of a reputed finance firm linked to the car showroom.

KN Nandeshwarachar, 63, a resident of Vyalikaval, told police he approached Ravindu Motors Pvt Ltd in Rajajinagar on April 27 to purchase an Innova on loan. At the showroom, he reportedly met a person, identified as Murthy, near the loans section.

Murthy provided him details of the procedure and advised him to contact finance agents linked to the showroom for quick processing of the loan. He provided the mobile number of an agent named Arun.

Following the suggestion, the retired policeman called Arun, who promised to arrange a vehicle loan. After gaining his trust, Arun allegedly instructed him to transfer Rs 6.3 lakh through RTGS to a bank account belonging to "Aarvin Edge Private Ltd" in Patancheru, Telangana, to book the vehicle. Nandeshwarachar transferred the amount.

However, when he visited the showroom again on May 15 to check the status of vehicle delivery, showroom staff informed him that no Innova was booked in his name and no loan was sanctioned by the finance firm. When Nandeshwarachar tried contacting Arun on his mobile, the number was switched off.

"When I visited the showroom on May 15, I didn't find Murthy. The showroom staff said no such person works there. But I saw Murthy wearing an ID card and attending to me inside the showroom on April 27. How would I know he is a fraudster?" Nandeshwarachar asked.

The money transferred by Nandeshwarachar was transferred to an account in Kerala and then to Punjab by fraudsters. Efforts are on to freeze the accounts, a senior police officer said.

# OLD REMAINS OLD
# 111-yr-old bungalow restored

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**Bengaluru:** Glass facades replacing vintage homes is a story told many times. Here's a counter-narrative: The two-storey house of HV Nanjundayya, a towering intellectual of erstwhile Mysore kingdom and founding president of Kannada Sahitya Parishat, has been restored to its former glory in a six-year-long exercise.

The restoration of the landmark building on Malleswaram 13th Cross comes at a moment when Bengaluru's architectural memory is steadily thinning, especially in sepia-tinted areas which house century-old edifices.

Sitting across a 75x75ft plot, the bungalow built in 1915 housed over 30 rooms — bedrooms, padasaales (living quarters), bathrooms, dressing areas, foyers, a pooja room, kitchen and dining spaces — along with multiple entrances, two staircases, a private office and an open courtyard. Built using brick, lime, and mortar, the structure also featured extensive teakwood and rosewood detailing.

**TIMES** *Special*

The conservation initiative was undertaken at the behest of Malleswaram MLA CN Ashwathnarayan by Greater Bengaluru Authority. "This project is a reminder that Bengaluru once valued permanence over speed," he said, adding it was a Rs 2-crore project.

"Architecturally, the home is a striking blend of Indian courtyard planning and Gothic aesthetics," said Yashaswini Sharma, founder of Esthétique Architects, who led the restoration.

"One of the first-floor rooms has Spanish mosaic tiles and Victorian stained-glass windows. The house had beautiful fascia boards and artistic sills," she said.

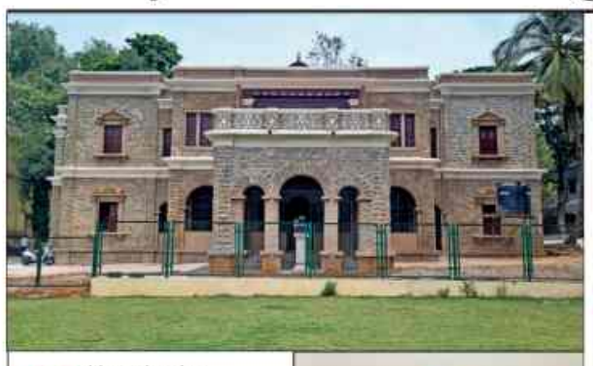
This was the first residential building in Malleswaram to get electricity and a plumbing system. The grand building also offers a glimpse into everyday life a century ago. The sauna-like room particularly stood out during restoration work. "We did not find such rooms in other buildings of the Mysore kingdom from the same period," Sharma pointed out. "We learned that Nanjundayya used to apply oil and sit there before showering."

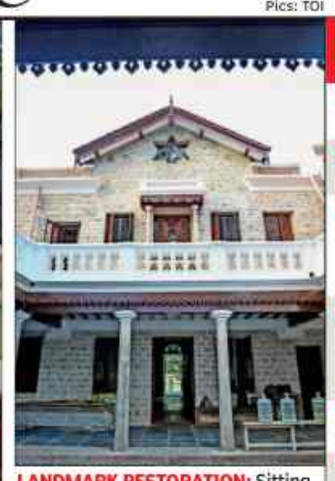
Keeping longevity in mind, Yashaswini said rockwool and grasswool insulation have been introduced to improve thermal comfort and durability. "Overall, the objective is to keep Nanjundayya's legacy alive," she said.

After Nanjundayya's death, his family sold it to the govt, which transformed it into a Govt Girls High School. Over time, it housed govt offices and functioned as a Veena examination centre.

Ashwathnarayan said there is a proposal to start a language lab dedicated to Nanjundayya, a Kannada Sahitya Parishat outlet and an interactive cultural space. The final decision rests with GBA West, custodian of the property.

Pics: TOI





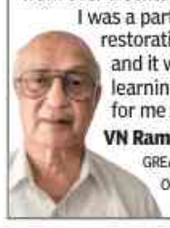
**LANDMARK RESTORATION:** Sitting across a 75x75ft plot, the bungalow was built using brick, lime and mortar in 1915 and housed over 30 rooms, which feature extensive teakwood and rosewood detailing

**AUTHENTICITY IS THE KEY WORD**

- Conservation began in 2020, which halted due to Covid
- Restoration team attempted authenticity
- Tests at IISc showed stones from original building were from Closepet belt or today's Ramanagara
- Matching stones sourced; replacement bricks selected to replicate compression strength
- Sections of Madras roof rebuilt using similar tiles
- Damaged fascia boards restored in teakwood
- Deeply embedded vegetation — some roots running 30ft underground — removed and relocated

"This project is a reminder that Bengaluru once valued permanence over speed. The building is emblematic of a man (Nanjundayya) who promoted Kannada language and emphasised on education of girl children
**CN Ashwathnarayan** | MALLESWARAM MLA

"The bungalow has been wonderfully restored now. It was difficult to procure materials that matched those from over a century ago. I was a part of the restoration process and it was a learning curve for me too
**VN Ramaswamy** | GREAT-GRANDSON OF HV NANJUNDAYYA



HV Nanjundayya

# Pregnant Jersey cow electrocuted during rain

Times News Network

**Bengaluru**: A 47-year-old dairy farmer lost his pregnant Jersey cow worth over Rs 1.3 lakh after it was electrocuted allegedly due to a faulty underground Bescom cable during heavy rain in Nagarabhavi, west Bengaluru, Monday evening.

According to the complaint filed by Prakash, who owns around 15 cows and runs a dairy business, the incident occurred at 5.15pm when he was taking two cows from Nagarabhavi Ramakrishna Hegde Park towards an empty site behind the govt library building.

As heavy rain lashed the area, one of the Jersey cows suddenly collapsed on the ground while the other ran away in panic. Prakash said he saw smoke emerging from the ground at the spot and an underground cable was found damaged.

Prakash told police the cow died due to a short circuit caused by the underground cable and blamed Bescom and the owner of the vacant site for the accident.

A case has been registered under Section 325 (mischief by killing or maiming an animal) of BNS and under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

# Delhi woman among 8 held, 17kg MDMA seized

Times News Network

**Bengaluru**: Police busted an international drug-peddling network with the arrest of eight persons, including three foreigners, and seizure of 17kg of MDMA valued at Rs 17 crore.

Police said the racket was allegedly masterminded by Reena Yadav alias Bapi, 50, who was released from a Delhi jail last year after serving 13 years in a criminal conspiracy case. According to police, the Delhi woman's associates Dheeraj and Debashish Banerjee alias Debu were involved in collecting and transporting the contraband before handing it over to Bengaluru-based operatives through foreign women acting as couriers.

The others arrested are Mohammed Masoor P and Abdul Samad, both natives of Dakshina Kannada who were staying in a rented accommodation in Bengaluru, and three foreigners — Obianuju Rita from Nigeria, Margereth Linginiko Chale from Tanzania and Danfa Gerald from Senegal.

Police commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh said investigation began after Hebbal police received a tip-off on May 11 about drug sale near an apartment in Anandnagar.

*— Nyasa Gupta*

# *Allied healthcare has bright future: Experts*

Times News Network

**Bengaluru**: "As a nation, we once exported a lot of doctors across the world. And now, our nurses are going because we produce a large number of them. The next big thing will be allied healthcare workers. The whole world needs them. So, it is a great vertical for young people to get into." This statement of Dr Sharan Shivaraj Patil, chairman, Sparsh Hospitals, summed up Mission Admission webinar on future-ready careers in allied health sciences.

At the webinar hosted by **The Times of India** in association with Manipal Academy of Higher Education, experts noted that, driven by a new national regulatory framework, growing demand for skilled manpower and increasing focus on quality healthcare delivery, allied health sciences could be the new rage.

Arun G Maiya, dean at the Manipal College of Health Professions under MAHE, explained how the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021, has brought about a paradigm change in the sector.

The allied health professions largely include technology-oriented disciplines such as laboratory sciences and imaging, while healthcare professions include patient-care-focused fields like physiotherapy, occupational therapy and physician associate programmes. The commission currently oversees 10 major domains and 56 sub-domains under allied and healthcare education.

From the 2026 admission cycle onwards, 17 programmes approved by the national commission will have to follow a standardised curriculum across institutions. "The vision is one nation, one curriculum. All institutions offering these programmes must implement the curriculum approved by the commission," he said.

The approved programmes include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, respiratory technology, optometry, dialysis technology, anaesthesia and operation theatre technology, emergency medical technology, physician associate courses, clinical nutrition, psychology and healthcare management.

Experts noted that the demand for trained allied healthcare professionals has risen sharply. Dr Sharan urged students from smaller towns and rural areas to consider allied healthcare careers, calling them a pathway to social mobility, personal growth and nation-building. "In many cases, this becomes a life-changing opportunity for students from villages and tier-2 or tier-3 towns," he said. Ageing populations in countries such as Japan and Germany are creating significant employment opportunities for Indian graduates. Salary packages in hospitals here start from Rs 25,000-Rs 30,000, with ample prospects of career growth.

"Healthcare is teamwork. Many a time, patients remember the support people more than the doctor. Being in healthcare itself is the greatest privilege. It's so fulfilling. There is a purpose when you take care of someone in pain. It also makes you a better human being. In the western world, doctors and support staff are treated with the same respect. While many doctors trained abroad follow the same practice here, the day is not far here when everyone will be treated on par
**Dr Sharan Shivaraj Patil** | CHAIRMAN, SPARSH HOSPITALS

"According to World Health Organisation's 2016 projection, by 2030, more than 60% of the health force will comprise allied and healthcare professionals. The Union finance minister highlighted that in the next five years, we need more than 1 lakh qualified and skilled allied and healthcare professionals in the country. So, there is significant demand. They have a very bright future
**Arun G Maiya** | DEAN AT THE MANIPAL COLLEGE

**The approved allied healthcare programmes include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, respiratory technology, optometry, dialysis technology, anaesthesia and operation theatre technology, emergency medical technology, physician associate courses, clinical nutrition, psychology and healthcare management**

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# Project Suraksha of Nimhans leads suicide-prevention efforts in state

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru**: Kavitha (name changed), a woman from Channapatna taluk in Bengaluru South district, had attempted to take her own life after struggling with family-related problems. "I wanted to die as I thought I had no one left in the world," the farmers' group leader recalled. But timely intervention saved her life and today, she is helping others get rid of suicidal thoughts.

Many such stories stand testament to the impact of Project SURAKSHA (SURveillance system to trAcK suicide and SelfHArm), a community-based suicide-prevention programme piloted in Channapatna in 2023 under Nimhans Suicide Prevention, Research, Implementation Training and Engagement Centre (N-SPRITE).

An evaluation report of the three-year project, released Wednesday, revealed there have been no repeat suicide attempts among more than 1,600 cases recorded in 69 self-harm registries monitored across health centres and hospitals. The project is a joint initiative of Nimhans, the Karnataka govt and Himalaya Wellness Company.

**Govt has also approved Phase I implementation of the project in Ballari district. Karnataka remains among the five states reporting the highest number of suicides in India**

Kavitha said she now receives five to six calls every month from people seeking emotional support.

Dr Prabha S Chandra, director, Nimhans, said, "Developing an ecosystem that does not stigmatise but rather supports persons who attempt suicide, prevents repeat attempts and thus saves many lives is the need of the hour. One must also not forget those who are left behind. Project Suraksha aims at supporting families and friends who are impacted by suicide loss."

The project began with the establishment of community-based surveillance teams (CBSTs), responsible for early identification, referral and risk management of individuals vulnerable to suicide. Currently, the CBSTs comprise 795 trained members, including panchayat leaders, healthcare workers, self-help group members, and teachers.

As of Feb 2026, over 1.7 lakh people in the taluk have been reached through IEC materials. The project helpline has received over 193 calls, including 33 crises calls requiring immediate intervention, said Dr Anish V Cherian, principal investigator of Project Suraksha, Lead–N-Sprite, and additional professor at Nimhans. Following its implementation across 32 gram panchayats in Channapatna, the project will now be expanded to all five taluks of Ramanagara district.

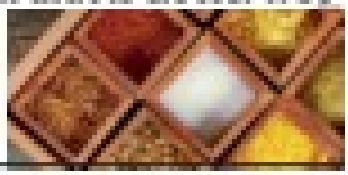
# Bluru's ice cream sundae and Mumbai's sandwich in world's top 100

# Chai journeys: Brewing India's OG mood board

## Railway chai still evokes nostalgia

## Road trips, mountains and chai stops

## How to: Build a spice box that is clutter free



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# The Supreme Court wants states to take stray dog management more seriously

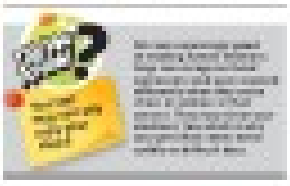
Yes to ABC
No to Shelters
Shelter Life
Crore
What PETA's roadmap proposes
With about 62 million free-roaming dogs in India, there is no national census, tracking, or mass-sterilisation data to confirm even a fraction of the population: PETA India

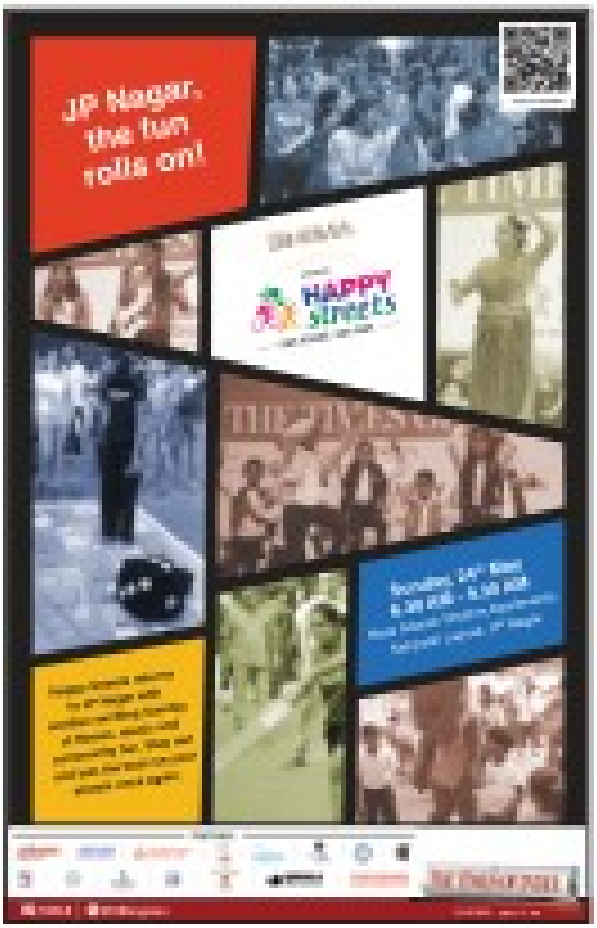
## Background

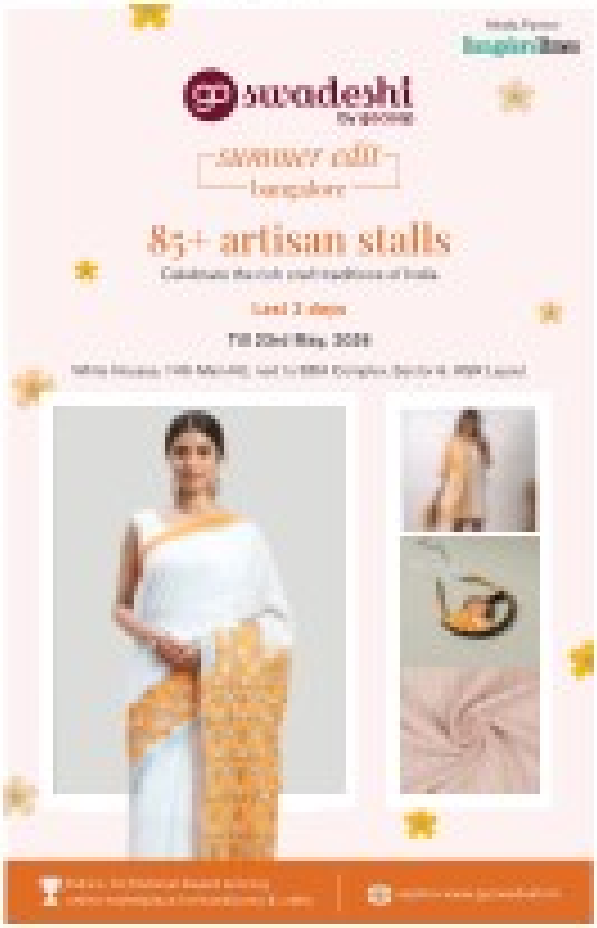
## What is the SC's order

# AI cannot replace doggie actors, says director Robert

W





# Mounting dues & delayed payments put guarantee schemes under stress

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**Bengaluru**: The govt's ambitious guarantee schemes are increasingly coming under financial stress, with mounting dues, delayed reimbursements and rising employee demands exposing growing pressure on the state's finances and public sector undertakings.

While the Siddaramaiah govt continues to defend the schemes, insisting they are an essential social safety net for women, students and low-income families, there is fresh scrutiny over the long-term sustainability of the welfare-driven model.

Earlier this week, the high court stepped in to restrain a federation of transport employees' unions from proceeding with an indefinite strike planned from Wednesday, helping the govt avoid a major embarrassment. Employees were seeking a 25% increase in salary with retrospective effect from Jan 1, 2024, and settlement of pending arrears.

Karnataka's four state-run road transport corporations are already under severe financial pressure, with pending reimbursements under the free travel Shakti scheme crossing Rs 7,130 crore. BMTC alone is estimated to be facing a shortfall of nearly Rs 850 crore. Officials say implementing a 25% hike would impose an additional burden of Rs 6,312 crore over four years on the exchequer. The corporations employ around 1.5 lakh workers. To ease the burden, the govt has already exempted transport corporations from paying motor vehicle taxes.

The power sector too is reeling. Electricity distribution companies are reportedly burdened with borrowings of around Rs 42,750 crore due to delayed subsidy releases and unpaid dues from govt departments. Although the govt has released over Rs 22,750 crore towards the Gruha Jyothi free electricity scheme, delayed payments linked to agricultural power subsidies have strained liquidity of Escoms.

The Gruha Lakshmi scheme, which provides Rs 2,000 to women heads of families, has also periodically witnessed delays, with some beneficiaries reportedly waiting months for instalments. Officials said pending payments are being released in phases depending on fund availability. Similarly, under the Anna Bhagya scheme, the govt recently cleared pending transport bills of Rs around 250 crore owed to lorry owners after they threatened a strike over mounting dues related to transporting subsidised food grains. Delays have also affected the Yuva Nidhi unemployment assistance scheme because of verification backlogs and fiscal constraints.

Public policy expert Prof Saritha Pai said welfare schemes can provide social stability and improve household consumption, but govts must ensure fiscal discipline and proper targeting of beneficiaries. "If reimbursements are delayed for long periods, operational efficiency will suffer. The state must balance welfare spending with investments in infrastructure and service delivery," he said.

Finance expert BS Hiremath said the govt may have to restructure some schemes. "The focus should shift to identifying genuine beneficiaries through stronger data integration. Better targeting can reduce unnecessary expenditure while protecting vulnerable families," he added.

Fiscal experts also warned that Karnataka could face additional political pressure as neighbouring states continue expanding welfare measures. The Tamil Nadu govt recently announced a Rs 1 lakh reward for citizens who successfully report govt employees demanding bribes with credible video proof as part of an anti-corruption initiative. Kerala, meanwhile, increased social security and welfare pensions by Rs 400 per month, taking the monthly assistance to Rs 2,000.

Such moves could intensify competitive welfare politics among states, increasing pressure on Karnataka to either enhance existing schemes or introduce additional benefits despite growing fiscal stress.

But finance department officials and Guarantee Implementation Committee office-bearers insist the govt remains committed to the schemes and is working to streamline payments and improve revenue mobilisation to sustain welfare spending.

TOI

**NO CHARGE, HUGE STRAIN:** File picture of CM Siddaramaiah handing out free bus tickets to women during the launch of the Shakti scheme

## GUARANTEES BECAME MODEL FOR OTHER STATES, SAYS SHIVAKUMAR

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar Wednesday hailed the Congress govt's completion of three years in office, while reiterating that its welfare schemes had set a national benchmark and were being replicated by several states.

"Leave Tamil Nadu, Kerala or Maharashtra aside, even BJP-governed states like Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, those who criticised, us accepted our model," he said. "Some even released funds before us."

Shivakumar said nearly Rs 1.3 lakh crore had already been disbursed under the flagship schemes, benefiting around 1.3 crore families across Karnataka.

Providing a break-up of expenditure under various schemes, he said Gruha Lakshmi alone accounted for nearly Rs 69,000 crore, benefiting around 1.2 crore women heads of households.

"Through Gruha Jyothi, we have spent around Rs 26,000 crore for free electricity," he said. "Under the Shakti scheme for women's travel, around Rs 19,000 crore has been given to KSRTC and BMTC. Around Rs 12,000 crore has been spent on Anna Bhagya and Rs 950 crore on Yuva Nidhi."

# Renaming Tumakuru sparks identity vs growth debate

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**Bengaluru**: Home minister G Parameshwara's proposal to rename Tumakuru district as Bengaluru North has triggered a sharp political and civic debate, with Congress functionaries backing it as a growth measure and the opposition calling it a real estate-driven exercise that could dilute Tumakuru's identity.

Parameshwara's remarks Tuesday drew criticism from BJP and JD(S), while urban experts questioned whether attaching Bengaluru's name to districts would actually aid development.

V Somanna, Union minister of state for railways and Tumakuru MP, called the proposal "bizarre" and accused the Siddaramaiah govt of lacking developmental ideas and funds for development.

"Tumakuru has a distinct identity as a land of education and historical relevance," Somanna told TOI. "By proposing to rename it as Bengaluru North, the home minister appears to be diluting its religious, cultural and educational identity."

Former BJP minister JC Madhuswamy alleged the move was aimed at boosting land prices. "This is just greed and we strongly condemn it," he said. "Parameshwara appears intent on joining the league of his cabinet colleague and deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar, who has openly said renaming Ramanagara district would increase real estate prices. If this is development, no self-respecting citizen of Tumakuru will accept it."

But Congress MLA HD Ranganath defended the proposal, saying it could spur growth in districts around Bengaluru. "Why stall development of Tumakuru. The Bengaluru tag will help drive industrialisation and real estate in the district," Ranganath said.

Urban planning expert V Ravichandar said districts such as Tumakuru and Ramanagara were seeking the Bengaluru tag for brand value and higher land prices but warned it could backfire given Bengaluru's infrastructure stress. "At the rate we are going, it is only a matter of time before the rest of Karnataka is named 'Around Bengaluru'," he said.

PC Mohan, BJP MP, while pointing out that Tumakuru was 70km from Bengaluru, remarked on X: "At this rate, Mangaluru may become 'Bengaluru Beachfront,' Kalaburagi 'Bengaluru Far East,' Kodagu 'Bengaluru Hill Station,' and the entire state 'Greater Bengaluru Area'."

A year ago, Shivakumar got Ramanagara district renamed Bengaluru South and although Bengaluru Rural was proposed to be renamed Bengaluru North, it required a no objection certificate from the Union home ministry. Reacting to Parameshwara's proposal, Shivakumar said he will consider it positively.

> My remarks were meant only to project Tumakuru as an extension of Bengaluru to attract investment and accelerate growth. There is no question of Tumakuru losing its identity. Tumakuru taluk and all other taluks will remain unchanged. The intention is only to help the district grow
> **G Parameshwara** | HOME MINISTER

**DISTRICT'S PROFILE**

| | |
|---|---|
| Area 10,597 sqkm | Population 26.8 lakh |
| Taluks 10 | Municipalities 2,715 |
| Villages 2,715 | MLAs 10 |

## Move to recruit 15k govt schoolteachers

During a review meeting of the school education department, CM Siddaramaiah instructed officials to submit a proposal to the finance department to immediately recruit 15,000 teachers. Officials said they were waiting for the internal reservation issue to be resolved. Siddaramaiah also asked officials to arrange transport facilities for all Karnataka Public Schools. "All 800 KPSEs should be fully ready in the next two years," he said. The govt will formally launch the KPS scheme in Shivamogga on June 1. TNN

# *New department for elderly welfare proposed*

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru**: A proposal submitted to the CM seeks to introduce a comprehensive system aimed at making Karnataka a leading state in elderly welfare and healthy ageing.

Titled 'Karnataka elderly welfare & active ageing mission – 2026', the proposal, submitted by S Mohanadass Hegde, member of Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission, recommends creation of a dedicated Karnataka elderly welfare department to coordinate healthcare, social protection, legal assistance and welfare services for senior citizens.

Inspired by a system in Japan, it focuses on addressing challenges arising from increasing life expectancy, urbanisation and changing family structures. It highlights concerns such as healthcare accessibility, loneliness, financial insecurity, mental health issues, and lack of elderly-friendly infrastructure.

The roadmap proposes integrated geriatric healthcare centres, AI-enabled telemedicine services, home-based healthcare systems, wellness hubs and mobile medical outreach programmes, especially for rural and underserved regions. It also calls for creation of real-time elderly health registries and digital healthcare systems to improve monitoring and emergency response.

It recommends affordable assisted living facilities, senior citizen housing support, caregiver training programmes, pension accessibility reforms and digital literacy initiatives. It also seeks development of age-friendly public infrastructure, emergency response systems and community participation platforms to encourage intergenerational engagement and reduce social isolation among senior citizens.

The mission is expected to generate jobs in the sector while strengthening the state's inclusive welfare governance model.

# Kharge said he's too old to be CM: Rayareddi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru**: Amid renewed speculation over a possible change at the helm, senior Congress functionary Basavaraj Rayareddi Wednesday revealed party president Mallikarjun Kharge had declined suggestions that he become chief minister.

Sections within Congress floated Kharge's name as a possible compromise candidate amid an ongoing tussle between chief minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar.

Rayareddi, MLA and Siddaramaiah's economic adviser, said: "Kharge would have been an ideal replacement as he would become the first Dalit CM of the state. However, he refused, saying he was too old for the post and could not become CM. We then urged him to allow Siddaramaiah to continue for the next two years as well," Rayareddi said.

Asked about other Dalit contenders including home minister G Parameshwara, as possible compromise candidates, Rayareddi said the issue was not open for discussion. "However, if a decision to replace the CM is taken, it will be entirely up to the party high command," he said.

## More Cauvery river water for industries

Industries minister MB Patil said the govt plans to allocate an additional 2.5tmcft of Cauvery water for industrial use amid concerns over water availability for projects. After a meeting with AR Krishnamurthy, Kollegal MLA, Patil said a plan is being prepared to increase storage capacity of Agara and Madduru lakes in Kollegal to support the proposal. "Cauvery Water Tribunal allocated 4tmcft of water for industrial purposes. Of this, we already use 1.4 tmcft, and a plan is being drawn up to use 2.5tmcft of the remaining 2.6tmcft for industries in Bengaluru," Patil said. He said water would be pumped for 120 days during the monsoon and the two lakes would be used as storage sources during the year. TNN


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Dad, there is no day that passes without remembering you, you have been such a great part of our lives. Your greatness was your innocence. We all continue to miss you till we meet again.
Miss you every day
"DAD"
Jacob, Sneha, Twinkle and Bubbles.

P C MATHEWS (Benny)

REMEMBRANCE
SHARING MEMORIES

14th Anniversary
In Fond Memory of
SHRI G. MURALIDHARAN
Spectron Electronics
- Near & Dear
(Phone: 9986202611)

7th Death Anniversary
Hon. Capt. R. Krishna Swamy
16-02-1936 - 21-05-2019
Your love and blessings will be there for us at every stage of our lives.
Family and Friends

In loving memory of

Leah Regina Heldt
April 19, 2002 - May 21, 2022
Fourth Anniversary
"Four years have passed since you left this world, your light continues to shine in our hearts. We remember your gentle spirit, your laughter, and the love you gave so freely."
Memorial Mass at 7 am, Saturday May 23, 2026
Ascension Church, Dacosta Layout

SECOND YEAR REMEMBRANCE
Shri BHOMBORE RAMACHANDRA SATYANARAYANA RAO
(1934 – 2024)

Your Presence speaks, even in your absence.....
We miss you more with each passing day.
You will always be in our hearts.
Remembered by
Smt. Lalitha Rao, Dinesh & Latha, Naresh & Tara
Roopa & Ramesh, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.

Fond Remembrance
Sri. K. T. Rajashekhara
Founder - S.R.S. travels
17.09.1943 - 21.05.2021

Behind everything that SRS stands today was a man who showed up every single day and took full responsibility for building it, without pause. That unwavering commitment became the very foundation of everything he created.
This day, on his fifth anniversary, we rededicate ourselves to his high ideals and renew our resolve to uphold the vision he built.
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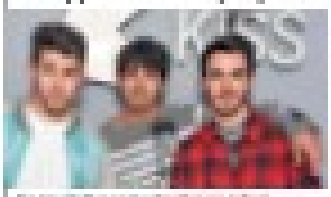
Do not fear the digital world, it will not kill us - Thoughts

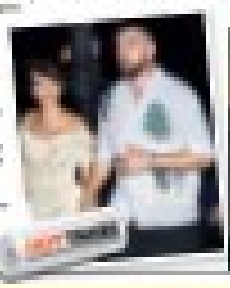
## WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

### The Jonas Brothers to launch weekly podcast namely Hey Jonas!

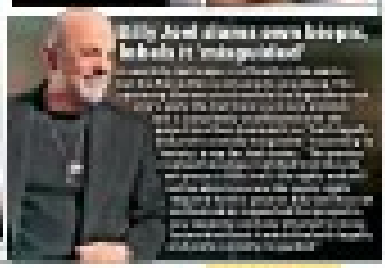


### Modi's gift for Meloni? Melody

### Taylor-Travis wedding security buzz reaches HC budget talks



### Billy Ard claims cave bivouac, tribals in 'misguided'



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TECH TALK

### How to a checklist for your digital cleaning

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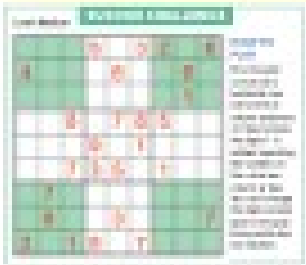

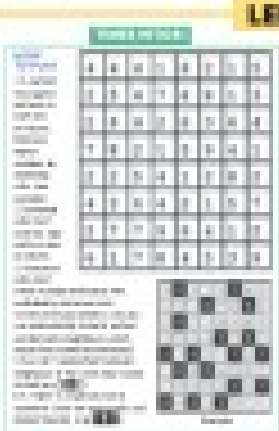

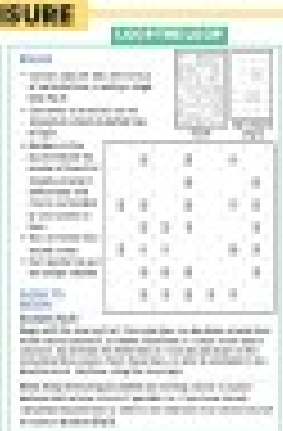

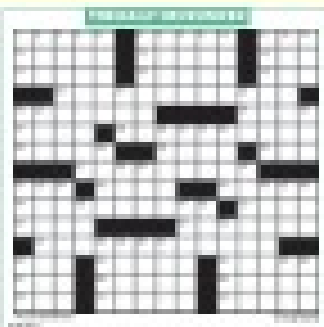

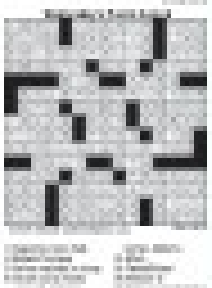

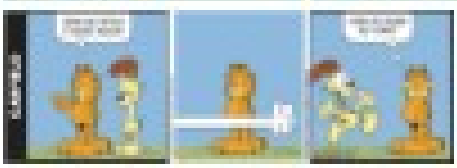

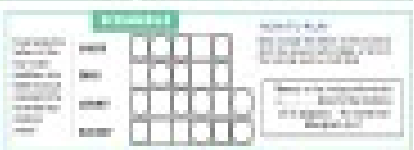

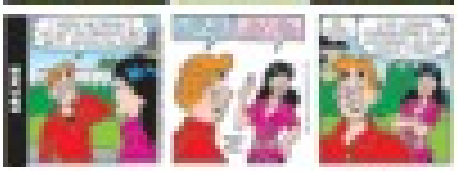

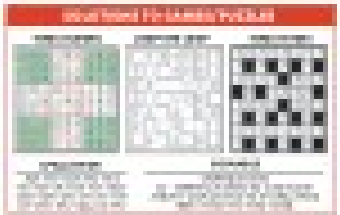

# Ice cream cart to ₹2,100-cr biz: Ponzi suspect grilled in B'luru

Rajiv.Kalkod@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** A man who once sold ice cream from an autorickshaw in Belagavi is now at the centre of a Rs 2,125-crore alleged investment scam, with Criminal Investigation Department looking into a staggering money trail.

CID sleuths brought Shivananda Neelannavar from Belagavi to Bengaluru Tuesday night. He operated Shivam Associates in Belagavi and collected deposits from thousands of people by offering high returns — up to 36% a year — on a minimum investment of Rs 1 lakh.

He promised investors eye-popping returns allegedly through stock market trading, commodity investments, real estate ventures and fisheries business. Investigators have frozen 15 bank accounts linked to Shivam Associates. One of the accounts alone reportedly contained nearly Rs 200 crore, while several others together held around Rs 50 crore.

While Neelannavar, in his early 30s, has denied charges of any fraudulent activity, CID officials are shocked at the scale of his operations. Between 2017 and 2024, Neelannavar collected Rs 1,180 crore from investors. During the first seven years, the firm collected Rs 168 crore annually on average.

The 2024-25 year saw him allegedly mobilising Rs 945 crore — an explosive and unexplained spike. Police sources said: "This was largely driven by aggressive promotional events, including social-media reels. Neelannavar conducted conferences in hotels, marriage halls and public venues. Sometimes he would even felicitate older investors to build credibility and confidence among new ones."

CID sources estimate Shivam Associates may have had nearly 40,000 investors spread across Karnataka and neighbouring states, though officials are still identifying the number of active depositors linked to the case.

CID has now started looking for details on investments allegedly made by Neelannavar and his associate, Subhash Nandaragi, who is currently absconding.

## BELAGAVI MAN ORGANISED CRICKET TOURNEYS

From Unkal near Hubballi, **Shivananda Neelannavar** shifted to Belagavi where he worked as a driver and later started selling ice cream from a three-wheeler fitted with a refrigerator. "He became familiar to many residents while selling ice cream. That was how he first built public contact," a CID officer said.

"Though Neelannavar claimed he completed class 12, we suspect he may have studied only up to class 10," the officer added. Around 2016, Neelannavar reportedly entered the stock market after taking personal loans. He claimed to have lost Rs 15 lakh and it took him four years to recover the money.

Subsequently, he started a massive informal investment network where he allegedly began handling public money without regulatory approval or registration, CID sources said.

Over the years, Neelannavar became a social-media celebrity in parts of north Karnataka. He organised cricket tournaments, influencer gatherings and community feasts, projecting himself as both businessman and philanthropist. He entered Kannada cinema, producing the sports action-drama, Champion.

The empire began to crumble after a complaint, reportedly forwarded by Sebi, triggered raids by Belagavi district administration. Senior CID officials are now questioning him about the alleged Ponzi-style operation. TNN

## DCM: HDK govt first notified Bidadi proposal

▶ Continued from page 1

The project, approved by the state cabinet on April 30, proposes to acquire 7,481 acres across nine villages in Ramanagara taluk of Bengaluru South district. Kumaraswamy has accused the govt of turning the township into an "official real estate business" and demanded an immediate halt to land acquisition.

Kanakapura MLA Shivakumar, who holds Bengaluru development portfolio, said after meeting farmers that the township proposal had originally been notified during Kumaraswamy's tenure as CM. "This is not something I initiated. The project had been given to DLF, which walked out saying it was not viable," he said.

Farmers said the township plans have been languishing since 2006. "The land had been red-zoned so there is no buying or selling," said Alasandra Srinivas, a farmer from Bidadi. "Finally, there is a headway in compensation: more than Rs 2 crore per acre," he said.

# Panels to study convocation dress code, honorary doctorate norms

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** The higher education department has constituted an expert committee to study the convocation protocol and common dress code during convocations.

The issue was raised during a recent meeting chaired by governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and attended by CM Siddaramaiah and DCM DK Shivakumar, along with vice-chancellors of all the state-run universities.

There was a general consensus that all state universities should have uniform code for convocations. Many vice-chancellors expressed displeasure at the current practice of western robes and caps used for graduating students and chief guests. Some of them also noted that the colours of these gowns vary with universities.

A govt order was passed announcing a convocation protocol and common dress code committee headed by former vice-chancellor of Janapada University, Ambalike Hiriyanna. Other members include TR Thapak, former VC, Maharaja Chhatrasal Bundelkhand University, and A Murigeppa, former VC, Kannada University. KG Chandrashekhar, executive director, Karnataka State Higher Education Council, will be the convener.

Another committee has been constituted to submit recommendations on framing uniform guidelines while awarding honorary doctorates by universities. This committee is headed by TD Kemparaju, former VC of Bangalore North University.

Yet another committee has been formed to make recommendations on the revision of the syllabus.

## BWSSB among top 5 utilities at global event

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**MADRID SUMMIT**

Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has been named among the world's top five water utilities at Global Water Summit 2026, held in Madrid, Spain, from May 18-20.

The board was acknowledged for its contribution towards achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation. BWSSB featured among the top five globally in 'Utility of the year' category for its work in urban water supply, sanitation management, technology adoption and infrastructure expansion over the last three years.

Its Cauvery Stage V project was shortlisted among the top five in 'Water project of the year' category at the international summit.

## Rooftop solar promotion drive

**Bengaluru:** As part of "Month of Solar – May 2026" initiative, energy department Wednesday launched a statewide LED mobile van campaign to promote rooftop solar adoption under PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana.

The 15-day campaign aims at creating awareness on rooftop solar installation, subsidies and registration procedures. TNN

## Spl train to Tenkasi

**Bengaluru:** South Western Railway this Sunday will run a summer special train between Bengaluru Cantonment and Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu, to clear extra rush of passengers. Train no. 06513 will leave Bengaluru Cantt at 10.20pm Sunday and reach Tenkasi at 1pm the next day. In return, 06514 will leave Tenkasi at 11pm Monday and reach Bengaluru at 1pm the next day. TNN

# *Bitter side: Fake Kodagu honey flooding K'taka, say beekeepers*

Sanjay.Murty@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** Beekeepers said rampant adulteration and fake branding are eroding consumer trust and affecting genuine honey producers across Karnataka. Even as efforts are underway to secure a geographical indication (GI) tag for Kodagu honey, industry players allege that cheaper honey sourced from other states is being repackaged and sold as premium Kodagu honey in Karnataka markets.

At a World Honey Day event organised at University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru, scientists and honey producers stressed the need for stronger quality certification and testing systems. "When we undertook market research, we found that litchi honey from states like Bihar and Gujarat is bought at lower prices and packaged as Kodagu honey or a local variety in parts of Karnataka," said Gramajanya Farmer Producer Company founder Ramapratheek Kariyal. He noted that neighbouring Kerala has built a stronger brand identity for its locally sourced honey, particularly the one collected from rubber plantations.

TOI

**PRODUCTION & EXPORT**

India's honey production in 2024-25: **1,52,000** tonnes

Export in 2024-25: **1 lakh** tonnes

India up from 9th place in 2020 to **2nd in** 2024-25

**HOW KARNATAKA IS PROGRESSING**

Average annual production: **2,100** tonnes

**52,750** managed bee colonies

Average yield of **6.7kg**/box/year

**Top 3 districts:** Uttara Kannada, Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru

Source: PR Badari Prasad, UAS-Raichur

Addressing concerns over purity, UAS-B vice-chancellor SV Suresha said reliable testing and certification infrastructure is essential to improve public confidence in honey products. "UAS-B is currently generating a large database of various parameters of honey samples in the new honey testing facility developed in collaboration with the Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre," he said.

Apart from honey production, beekeepers are increasingly exploring value-added products such as beeswax and bee pollen. Farmers are also recognising the benefits of bee pollination, with many reporting higher crop yields after introducing bee boxes into their farms. Beekeepers, particularly in north Karnataka, say the demand for pollination services has risen sharply among horticulture farmers.

## Right time to adopt safety measures: Min

▶ Continued from page 1

It will also be applicable to other protected forests and sanctuaries. Even VIPs must enter forest areas in secured vehicles, said Khandre.

"Fortunately, there have been no incidents of wild animals attacking safari vehicles so far. This is the right time to adopt some safety measures to prevent mishaps," the minister said in a note addressed to chief wildlife warden and principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife).

"Wildlife safaris in Karnataka's reserves are very popular and a big draw with tourists, including from overseas. To ensure safety, only secured buses and vehicles will be used. Existing camper vehicles should be secured with iron grills or shatter-proof glass," the minister stated.

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| Timings | Sessions | Speakers |
|---|---|---|
| 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM | Inauguration & Keynote | |
| 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | How industry-ready is engineering education in Karnataka? | Moderator: **Prof. S Sadagopan** Former Director, IIITB<br>Panelists: **Dr. KN Subramanya** Principal, RV College of Engineering; **Dr. Udayakumar Reddy** Dean of the School of Engineering, Dayanand Sagar University; **Dr. Kiran Kumari Patil** Director Innovations & Deputy Director of CMR School of Engineering and Technology; **Dr. Seshachalam D,** Professor & Vice Principal (Admin), BMS College of Engineering |
| 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | CET Counselling: A detailed walkthrough | **Mr. Manjunatha R** Joint Controller of Examinations and PRO, KEA |
| LUNCH BREAK | | |
| 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM | NEET Counselling: A guide on State Quota Seats | **Mr. Manjunatha R** Joint Controller of Examinations and PRO, KEA |
| 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Smart Degree Choices: How to match your degree with the current industry demand | Moderator: **Ms. Nilisha Mohapatra,** Head of Growth & Partnerships, Teamlease<br>Panelists: **Mr. Harold Fernandes** Product Leader, BITS Pilani Digital; **Mr. Nisshanth Kumar M** Professor, Chanakya University; **Dr. A.V. Arunkumar** Professor and Director, IFIM Institutions; **Dr. Dinesh Nilkant** Provost, Presidency University; **Dr. Harold Andrew Patrick** Professor and Director, Alliance University |
| 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM | COMEDK Counselling: A comprehensive Guide | **Mr. Gururaj Bhat** Joint Secretary, COMEDK |

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### Karnataka

**2026 Result**

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| 99.94% | 99.2% | 99% |

### IIT - JEE 2026 TOP ACHIEVERS
### 99.6 PERCENTILE & ABOVE

| | |
|---|---|
| Shrihan | 99.94% |
| Raagavendhan | 99.82% |
| Advay | 99.77% |
| Parth | 99.77% |
| Mishita | 99.67% |
| Ananya | 99.66% |
| Navnish | 99.65% |

### CLASS 10 & 12 - CBSE SUBJECT WISE TOPPERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mathematics | 100/100 | Raghav |
| Science | 100/100 | Aadiyant, M Sai Saharsa |
| Marketing | 100/100 | Isha Aashthambi |
| Information Technology 311 | 100/100 | Aaran, Akshansh, Atreyya, Dhruva, Kavin, Manav, Saurabh, Raghav |
| Social Science | 100/100 | Manoj |
| Sanskrit B/French | 100/100 | Raghav & Kushal |
| Physics | 98/100 | Ojas Gupta |
| Chemistry | 100/100 | Ojas Gupta |
| Hindi | 98/100 | Ananya, Ojas, Navnish |
| Biology | 98/100 | Sangeetha |

### 2025 Result

## Karnataka Rank - 1 in IIT-Adv. Daksh : Air-15

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# TIMES NATION

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PRADHAN REVIEWS NEET-UG RE-EXAM SECURITY, ORDERS CRACKDOWN ON FAKE TELEGRAM CHANNELS

RAJYA SABHA MP RAGHAV CHADHA MOVES DELHI HIGH COURT AGAINST AI-GENERATED DEEPFAKES

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**WHAT IT SOLVES:** Stops important emails from getting buried when you cannot respond immediately but do not want to forget them

**WHAT TO DO:** Use Gmail Snooze to make an email return to the top of your inbox at the right date and time

**STEPS:**

1. **Open** the email in Gmail
2. **Tap** the more-options menu
3. **Choose** Snooze
4. **Pick** a suggested time or set your own date and time
5. **Review** the Snoozed folder if you want to change or cancel it

**NOTE:** This is better than marking everything unread. Use it for bills, approvals, callbacks, renewals, school emails, and follow-ups

SCAN FOR MORE

*Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules*

## Garam masala flagged as drug, man spends 57 days in jail, gets ₹10L in damages

Madhya Pradesh HC awarded Rs 10 lakh compensation to businessman Ajay Singh, who spent 57 days in jail after packets of aamchur and garam masala in his luggage were allegedly flagged as heroin and psychotropic substances by an explosive detection machine at Bhopal airport.
Calling it a failure of state machinery and inadequate forensic infrastructure, Justice Deepak Khot held the state vicariously liable for Singh's incarceration and directed govt to pay compensation within three months. HC also ordered inspection of forensic labs across the state. TNN

# Will deport to B'desh those not in CAA ambit: Bengal CM

## Says Act Came In Force In State On Wednesday

**Rohit Khanna & Debashis Konar** | TNN

**Kolkata:** Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday announced the enforcement of Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in the state and said illegal immigrants not covered under the Act will be arrested and handed over to BSF for deportation.

"The act is being enforced in the state from today... BSF will get in touch with BDR (Bangladesh Rifles, now known as Border Guard Bangladesh) and deport them," Adhikari said after a meeting with BSF officers at Nabanna.

Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians who entered India till Dec 31, 2024, to flee religious persecution in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan can apply for citizenship under CAA, as per the Central govt notification issues in Sept last year. Members of these six religious communities can stay in India legally even without valid passports. The original cut-off date in CAA was Dec 31, 2014.

Union home ministry had in May 2025 issued fresh guidelines to all states and UTs regarding identification and deportation of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. It also set up two empowered committees to process applications for citizenship filed under the act. "The Central govt sent a notification to the state govt on May 14, 2025, asking them to hand over illegal immigrants to BSF. The earlier (Trinamool) govt opposed granting of citizenship under the Act and also did not enforce the order," Adhikari said.

**CITIZENSHIP LAW**

- **Who are covered by CAA** | Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians who entered India till Dec 31, 2024, to flee religious persecution in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan
- **Who are not** | Muslims

Those not covered by CAA are infiltrators. Police will arrest them and hand them over to BSF, who will get in touch with BDR & deport them
**Suvendu Adhikari** | CM

### BSF gets 75 acres for border fencing

Bengal govt on Wednesday handed over an initial 75 acres to BSF to fence 27 km of international border between India and Bangladesh. CM Suvendu Adhikari, who earlier promised to start the land handover process after the BJP govt assumed office, said completion of the fencing would be crucial to national security. Officials said 43 acres were directly purchased and 32 acres were vested land.

### Vande Mataram must in madrassas

Singing the national song 'Vande Mataram' has been made mandatory in all madrassas, Sishu Siksha Kendras and Madhyamik Shiksha Kendras, Bengal govt officials said after a notice was issued on Wednesday. The BJP govt in the state earlier introduced 'Vande Mataram' as the first song to be sung during morning assemblies in state-run and state-supported schools. TNN

# Goa may freeze budget hotels to curb mass tourism, says minister

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Panaji:** In an attempt to move away from mass-market tourism, the tourism department is toying with the idea of freezing registration of new budget hotels in Goa, said state tourism minister, Rohan Khaunte.

Khaunte, who described the budget hotels as a challenge, said existing C and D category hotels and guesthouses will simultaneously be nudged to upgrade themselves to offer better services and amenities at a higher price point. "The biggest challenge for govt today is in the C and D category," he said.

"Inventory of C and D category hotels has gone so high in the last couple of years that they cannot get footfalls at those rates. But, the upper-category hotels are being filled up. Upgrading existing C and D category hotels can get them better revenues," he said. "We were talking about quality over quantity, and if you see the inventory, the four-star and five-star resorts seem to be very comfortable in terms of selling their rooms at that particular price, whereas in the lower category of rooms, you find people having challenges selling those rooms at that particular price. It is premature for us to announce anything, but we need to sit with the industry and Travel and Tourism Association of Goa to understand how we can make things better," Khaunte said.

He said a concrete decision is expected after a fortnight. Anticipating a jump in events in Goa due to Modi's clarion call to host weddings and conferences domestically, the department plans to put in place a dedicated single-window system under a MICE bureau to provide expedited clearances for destination weddings, other events.


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I, Yogini Vaibhav Nanoti, R/o 36 Girivasa house, G street Main Road, Jogupalya, Halasuru, Bangalore 560008, have changed my name to Yogini Nanoti

I, SHUELLE SAARAH, R/o #158, Samrudhi building, Main Channel Road, Ulsoor, Bengaluru-560008. I have change my name to SHUELLE SAARAH SHEKHAR. Vide Affidavit Dated 11/05/2026, Sworn to before Notary CV Erappa, Bangalore

I DHANYA RAMAKRISHNAN D/o RAMAKRISHNAN. S, the resident of No: 323, ADI'S NORTH LAKE APARTMENT, AGRAHARA VILLAGE, YELAHANKA, BANGALORE NORTH YELAHANKA POST, BANGALORE, KARNATAKA - 560064 here by declare that DHANYA RAMAKRISHNAN and DHANYA SHYAM are both same and one identical person vide affidavit No: IN-KA61820878793345Y dated 16-05-2026 and shall be known as DHANYA RAMAKRISHNAN for all future purposes.

I, Priyanka J, W/O Bhanu Bhargava, born on 20/3/92, residing at Trivik Windwalk Attur Layout, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore 560064, have changed my name to Priyanka J Bhargava vide affidavit dated 19/5/26 at Bangalore

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I lost original property documents of Site #24, VP Khatha #115, BBMP Khatha # 42/24/57/42, house list # 137, HV Halli , Raja Rajeshwari Nagar. If anyone found these property related Documents please get back to me. My contact number 7619297502 Hassan Sona Rai.

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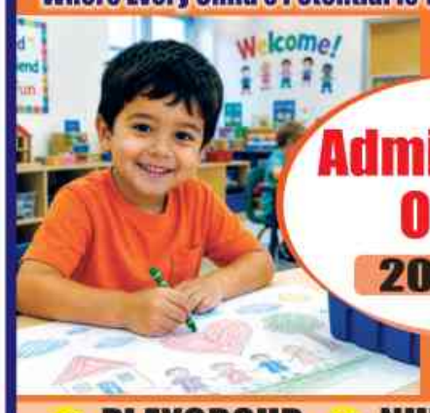


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# Protests in Manipur over hostage crisis as Nagas claim six men still missing

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Guwahati:** Mass protests swept across Manipur's hill districts Wednesday over an eight-day hostage crisis as Naga groups demanded release of six men allegedly abducted by Kuki-Zo armed groups, while Kuki-Zo organisations claimed 14 of their members, including three students, remain in custody of Naga outfits.

Security forces pressed on with combing operations in Kangpokpi district, deploying sniffer dogs and search teams across forested ranges in an effort to trace the missing civilians.

The crisis stems from a spiralling cycle of retaliatory abductions and killings that erupted on May 13, hours after three members of Thadou Baptist Association India were gunned down in an ambush in Kangpokpi district. More than 38 people from both communities were abducted that day. Rival groups released 14 captives each on May 14, but several people remain untraced.

Manipur has remained fractured since ethnic clashes erupted between Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities in May 2023. Recent confrontations between Kuki-Zo and Naga communities over territorial disputes, historical land grievances and localised violence have opened a volatile new front in the state's prolonged conflict. Hundreds of women gathered at Jadonang Park in Tamenglong, condemning kidnappings and demanding justice for Wilson Thanga, a Chiru Naga killed on May 13 in neighbouring Noney district.

## PIL alleges Dhurandhar reveals tactical info; HC moots norms for spy films

**New Delhi:** The Delhi high court Wednesday remarked that the "censor board should have some guidelines" related to spy movies, after a PIL filed by a serving Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) personnel flagged concerns over Ranveer Singh-starrer 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' revealing tactical and sensitive information on the country's intelligence and defence operations, and sought framing of a 'spy movies protocol', **reports Abhinav Garg**.

"The concerns raised by the petitioner need to be considered and addressed appropriately," a bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia said, adding that although movies are meant for entertainment, they do have an impact. The bench disposed of the PIL with a direction to I&B ministry and Central Board of Film Certification "to consider the entire writ petition as representation of the petitioner and take an appropriate decision on the issues raised".

The PIL contended that the film violated the Official Secrets Act as it showed tactical operations, sensitive locations and agents in "depth", and some scenes even revealed information that is not in the interest of the country's security.

## MP expert panel opts to keep 21% tribal population out of UCC

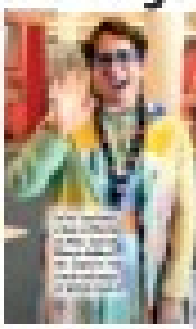
**Ankur.Sirothia**@timesofindia.com

**Bhopal:** The six-member panel constituted by Madhya Pradesh govt to prepare a draft bill and a report on uniform civil code has decided to keep the state's 21% tribal population out of its ambit. The committee's first meeting was held on May 12 in New Delhi where a consensus was reached to keep tribals out of UCC.

Senior officials in the secretariat said the state had a huge tribal population, with many subcastes that followed different social norms and rituals. It requires detailed study of cultures and traditions of all sub-castes of tribes that will take a lot of time, they added. Hence, it has been decided to, as of now, keep the 21% tribal population out of UCC. Govt will soon seek suggestions from the public on the proposed civil code through a questionnaire on the UCC portal. The committee will also tour the state to seek public opinion. That apart, UCC models prepared in Uttarakhand and Gujarat will also be studied to develop a suitable model for the state.

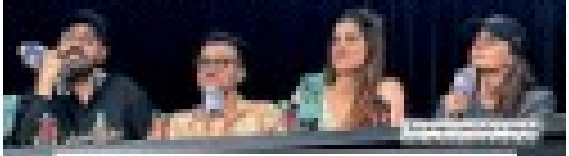
# 'The dynamics of my life have changed'

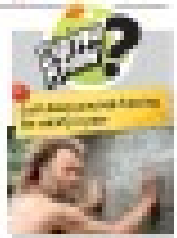
# Inside Cannes' Marche du Film – 'the stock exchange of global cinema'



## What really happens at Marche du Film

## Leaked image of Alia & Sharvari on Samay's comeback show goes viral



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# India, S Korea sign air defence MoUs during Rajnath's visit

## Korean Defence Firms Invited To Boost Engagement With India

Surendra.Singh
@timesofindia.com

India and South Korea on Wednesday signed two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) related to self-propelled air defence systems and directed energy weapon systems (that include high-power microwaves and laser beams) during defence minister Rajnath Singh's visit to Seoul, a defence source told **TOI**. "Both future-oriented projects have a strong make-in-India focus," the source said.

Two agreements between India's Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and South Korea's Hanwa Co Ltd were signed. The pacts are expected to facilitate enhanced collaboration between defence industries of both countries and promote technology cooperation and capacity building, according to a defence ministry statement. Hanwha and L&T had earlier tied up to provide the Indian Army with 100 K9 Vajra-T 155mm tracked self-propelled howitzers under a 2017 contract. Later, an additional order for 100 more howitzers was finalised.

**STRATEGIC PACTS:** Defence minister Rajnath Singh with Republic of Korea minister for defence acquisition programme administration Lee Yong-chul in Seoul, South Korea, on Wednesday

Besides key agreements, Rajnath and minister of national defence for South Korea Ahn Gyu-back held comprehensive bilateral discussions, reviewed the entire spectrum of defence cooperation and discussed ways to further expand collaboration in areas such as industry, production, maritime security, emerging technologies, military exchanges, logistics and regional security. Both sides acknowledged the growing convergence between India's Act East Policy and South Korea's regional strategic vision, reiterating their commitment to strengthening defence ties in line with the shared objectives of maintaining a free, open, inclusive and rule-based Indo-Pacific.

Agreements were also signed on promoting cooperation in the field of defence cyber; training between India's National Defence College and Korea National Defence University; and UN peacekeeping cooperation, making the partnership stronger and multidimensional.

Addressing the business leaders, Rajnath invited Korean defence companies to strengthen engagement with Indian industry and contribute towards long-term mutually beneficial collaboration. He said the future of defence will increasingly depend upon the ability to innovate rapidly and integrate technologies across multiple domains.

## SC seeks states' response on fair representation for women advocates in govt panels

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Supreme Court on Wednesday sought responses of Union and state govts to a PIL which sought minimum 30% quota for women in govt panel of lawyers while complaining that just a few women lawyers are empaneled by states and even those get a small number of dockets every month.

Appearing for the NGO 'Ladli Foundation Trust', senior advocate Vikas Singh told a bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi that though the number of women pursuing law has increased significantly, exceeding 50% in some colleges, opportunities for them to get empaneled by states for work in high courts are few, which smacks of gender discrimination and violates the right to equality. Justice Bagchi agreed that while there has been a significant increase in number of women in legal profession, the attrition rate in litigation advocacy is very high because of matrimony, maternity, childcare and other family responsibilities.

# Modi receives FAO's highest honour for key agri schemes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on Wednesday conferred on Prime Minister Narendra Modi the Agricola Medal, its highest honour, in recognition of his govt's landmark schemes to enhance agricultural productivity, bolster food security and further farmer's welfare, besides his overall commitment to public welfare.

Receiving the award in Rome from the specialised UN agency that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve food security, Modi said it reflects India's unwavering commitment to food security and sustainable development, and is an honour for country's farmers and others working in the sector.

FAO director general Qu Dongyu lauded the "exceptional leadership and vision of the prime minister in advancing the country's efforts to transform India's agricultural landscape through farmer-centric, innovative and path-breaking initiatives".

He also highlighted his govt's financial inclusion initiatives, the world's largest food-based social safety net covering 800 million people since Covid pandemic, direct income support to more than 110 million farmers, national efforts to advance regenerative and natural farming and global efforts to promote nutrient-rich millets, including through the International Year of Millets in partnership with FAO.

IANS

PM Modi interacts with Italian painter Giampaolo Tomassetti while viewing his artwork on Varanasi in Rome on Tuesday

The honour is bound to add to Modi's political muscle in countering Opposition, which has accused him of crony capitalism, saying this has happened at the expense of farmers and working class.

Since taking office in 2014, Narendra Modi govt has come up with several schemes, including annual cash assistance of Rs 6,000 for farmers and crop insurance, to help farm sector.

However, Congress and other opposition parties have accused the Prime Minister of working for big corporate houses and not doing enough for farmers. They have cited his govt's enactment of farm reform laws, withdrawn later due to protests by a section of farmers, as one example in this context.

## 300km-range Suryastra rocket successfully tested in Odisha

Surendra.Singh
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** A Pune-based defence company has successfully carried out the firing demonstration of the EXTRA and Predator Hawk "Suryastra" rockets of 150 km and 300 km range, respectively, from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha, on May 18 and 19.

Suryastra is India's first indigenous, universal multi-caliber rocket launcher system, designed to conduct precision surface-to-surface deep strikes against hostile targets. It bridges the gap between traditional field artillery and heavy ballistic missiles and provides Indian armed forces with a highly flexible, rapid-response and cost-effective precision weapon system. NSE-listed NIBE Limited has received a purchase order in Jan this year from the Indian Army under the emergency procurement for the supply of Suryastra universal rocket launcher and rockets. The consecutive trials for two days met all mission objectives with exceptional precision and both rockets achieved highly accurate strikes during testing, with a circular error probable, a standard measure of missile accuracy, of just 1.5 m and 2 m respectively, the company said.

# Suvendu aide murder: Court orders release as CBI makes wrong arrest

Dwaipayan.Ghosh
@timesofindia.com

**Kolkata:** CBI approached a Barasat court on Tuesday seeking the release of an accused in the murder of Chandranath Rath, an aide to Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari, saying the state police team that was earlier probing the crime had picked up the wrong person.

The court accepted the plea and ordered the release of Raj Singh, who was arrested in Uttar Pradesh by a special investigation team of West Bengal Police on May 11, five days after the murder. The investigation was later handed over to CBI.

The central agency submitted in court that Raj, who was picked up along with Mayank Mishra and Vicky Maurya, had an alibi for the day of the murder. Raj's family has claimed he was in UP when Rath was gunned down in Madhyamgram on May 6, two days after the Bengal assembly poll results were announced and three days before Adhikari was sworn in as CM. The family, reportedly well connected in UP's political circles, moved the highest offices in the state seeking justice.

Sources said UP police intelligence and special task force found the family's claim to be true. Raj's mother Jamvanti Singh told reporters after the arrest that her son had travelled with her to Lucknow on May 7 to attend the wedding of MLC Pappu Singh's daughter. They stayed in a guesthouse near the wedding venue. "Raj attended the wedding and returned to the guesthouse around midnight. We left for Ambedkar Nagar the next morning," she said. The family visited the shrine of Makhdoom Ashraf Baba in Ambedkar Nagar, where they offered a chadar, and left for Ayodhya. "We had a darshan (in Ayodhya) and later stopped at a place to eat. Police intercepted us when we were leaving, and took away Raj," his mother said.

Sources said CBI had tightened their grip on "the actual cell" behind the murder.

# *Hyd police arrest 66 ghost SIM dealers across 13 states*

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Hyderabad:** In a major operation spanning 13 states, the city police arrested 66 people involved in supplying ghost SIM cards to cybercriminals. Officers said the arrests are part of their current "Operation Octopus" and, that, the SIMs were used in 76 fraud cases that cumulatively netted Rs 101 crore.

The arrests were made across Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha, apart from Telangana. Officers told **TOI** that they cracked down on the suppliers after an analysis of various cybercrime cases revealed that 1,164 SIMs used in the offences were issued illegally.

V C Sajjanar, Hyderabad police commissioner, said 544 SIMs were seized during the operation, with 432 about to be dispatched to cybercriminals. Among the 66 people arrested, 44 were those in whose names ghost SIMs were bought, 20 were running temporary kiosks from where the SIMs were bought, and two are middlemen with connections to criminals.

Sajjanar said the accused obtained the SIMs using different methods. "When a genuine customer came to the kiosk, agents activated additional SIMs without their knowledge using eKYC. These were dispatched to cybercriminals. The agents also offered free activation to those who were not digitally literate and, later, diverted SIMs to criminals for use in overseas fraud."

**POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH**
Sector-30, Noida, 201303 www.pgich.edu.in,
Email- irf.sspginoida@gmail.com

Advt.No.PGICH,Noida/IRF/Tender/2026/18 Date-20.05.2026

| Tender No. PGICH/IRF/Tender/2026-27/02 Date-19.05.2026 | Tender Name |
|---|---|
| | Microbiology Consumables items Bids BID NO.: GEM/2026/B/7541481, Date: 14.05.2026 |
| | Biochemistry Consumables items Bids BID NO.: GEM/2026/B/7536263, Date: 14.05.2026 BID NO.: GEM/2026/B/7531448, Date: 12.05.2026 |
| | Pathology Consumables items Bids BID NO.: GEM/2026/B/7514939, Date: 16.05.2026 |

Details available on Gem portal **www.gem.gov.in** and on website **www.pgich.edu.in**. The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any offer partially or fully without assigning any reason.
Tel.: 0120-2456728 Director

**KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT**
Multi Storied Building, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru- 560001.

No. ED/5/EGOV/2026 Date:19.05.2026

**RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION**

The Karnataka State Higher Education Academy is an academy under the department of Higher Education, Government of Karnataka invites application from qualified and competent candidates for the position of the **Director, Karnataka State Higher Education Academy. Haliyal Road, Dharwad, Karnataka-580003.** Interested candidates may apply by sending detailed in the prescribed format to **dsuniversities@gmail.com** The details are given below. The last date for receiving email application along with CV is **30.05.2026 (05.00 P.M.).**

- Applicant must be a Professor in a Government Higher Education Institutions of the State/Public Universities (State & Central)/Institute of National Importance of Government of India.
- Ph.D. from a recognized University.
- Minimum 15 years of teaching/research experience in Higher Education and Minimum 5 years in a senior academic administrative position.
- Age must not exceed 60 years as on the closing date of application.
- Must not have any pending disciplinary or vigilance proceedings.
- Appointment for the period of 5 years or till age of 65 years whichever is earlier.
- The Director must draw the his/her own salary and grade during his tenure, addition to director allowance of Rs.10.000/-. If a retired person is appointed as Director, the emoluments shall be reduced by the amount of pension and allowances drawn by him and other emoluments.

For Application format, visit **https://hed.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- (V.T. Rajyashree)
Deputy Secretary to the Government (Universities),
Department of Higher Education)

DIPR/CP/JA/751/2026-27

**KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**
#49, "Parisara Bhavan", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru-560001, Karnataka,
Phone: 25581383, 25589112, 25586520, Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in, Website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

NO. PCB/342/SEO/MINES/EPH/2026-27/584 Date:20.05.2026

**ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION**

**Sri. Nagaraj S/o Chandappa** has proposed to undertake Quarrying of River Sand of production capacity 26,100 TPA for a period of five years in a total land Area of 12.20 Acres (5.0585 Hectares) at **"RSB-25, Dhondabali Sand Mining Block-01" in the Krishna Riverbed Project, Adjacent to Sy. No. 7/*/*, Dhondabali Village, Devadurga Taluk, Raichur District.** This project proposal falls under Category B1, Activity 1(a) – 'Mining of Minerals" as per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and its amendments. .

As per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated:14.09.2006 and Amendment dated: 01.12.2009, the project proponent has to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority and is required to go through the process of Environmental Public Hearing. As per the Terms of Reference (ToR) letter No. SEIAA 30 MIN 2026 dated:03.03.2026 issued by the SEIAA, Karnataka and request letter of the project proponent dated:20.03.2026 and the Environmental Officer, Regional Office, Raichur letter dated:13.05.2026 intimating the date, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the KSPCB.

**The details of the project are as follows:**

**1. Name & Address of the Project Proponent :** Sri. Nagaraj S/o Chandappa, #96, Devadurga Taluk, Raichur District – 584 111

**2. Location of the proposed Quarry Project :**"RSB-25, Dhondabali Sand Mining Block-01" in the Krishna Riverbed Project, Adjacent to Sy. No. 7/*/*, Dhondabali Village, Devadurga Taluk, Raichur District

**3. Details of proposed project :** Proposed to undertake Quarrying of River Sand of production capacity 26,100 TPA for a period of five years in a total land Area of 12.20 Acres (5.0585 Hectares).

**4. Date, time and venue of Environmental Public hearing : Date : 22.06.2026 (Monday),Time: 11:30 AM, Place: Near Aanemalleshwara Temple, Benakal Village, Devadurga Taluk, Raichur District.**

**5. Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are : (a)** Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Raichur District, Raichur. **(b)**Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Raichur District, Raichur. **(c)** District Industries Centre, Raichur District, Raichur. **(d)**Thasildar Office, Devadurga Taluk, Raichur District. **(e)**Department of Mines & Geology, Raichur District. **(f)** Town Municipal Council, Devadurga, Raichur District. **(g)** Gram Panchayat Office, Dhondabali, Devadurga Taluk. **(h)**Office of the Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Raichur. **(i)** SEIAA Karnataka (Ecology and Environment), Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka, Room No. 709, 7th Floor, 4th Gate, MS Building, Bengaluru – 560 001 **(j)**HELP DESK, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No. 49, Parisara Bhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001

**NOTE:** Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification to make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Raichur District, Raichur). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details please visit our **Website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in/.**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

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TRIPURA TEA INDIA TEA
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# Newlywed bride calls dad for help, found hanging later in UP

Rahul.Singh1@timesofindia.com

**Meerut:** A 19-year-old newlywed woman was found hanging under suspicious circumstances at her in-laws' house in Bagadpur Choiya under Adampur police station limits in UP's Amroha district on Tuesday night, hours after she allegedly called her father, pleaded with him to take her home, and said she feared she would be killed. Pushpendri Devi's family alleged dowry death, accusing her husband and in-laws of murdering her after harassing her for Rs 10 lakh.

Pushpendri married Ompal, a farmer from Khumawali in Gajraula area, on Feb 13 this year. Her father, Balbeer Singh, said the family had given dowry as per its capacity at the time of marriage, but Pushpendri's in-laws were allegedly unhappy and had been demanding more money.

Circle officer Pankaj Kumar Tyagi said an FIR was registered against Pushpendri's husband Ompal, father-in-law Rajendra, mother-in-law Indrawati and two others under BNS sections 80 (dowry death) and 85 (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty), and sections 3/7 of the Dowry Prohibition Act.

"The body was sent for post-mortem and ligature marks appeared around her neck. The exact cause of death can only be known after the autopsy report. Meanwhile, teams have been formed to nab the accused, who are presently at large," Tyagi said

Balbeer said Pushpendri called him around 6.30pm on Tuesday in distress. "She was crying helplessly on the phone, begging me to take her home. My daughter kept saying, 'Papa, they will kill me.' I tried to console and told her I would come, but before I could even reach her, I was told she was dead. I could never imagine that our last conversation would end like this," he said.

Her family alleged that Pushpendri's in-laws assaulted her, killed her and then hanged the body to make it look like suicide. They claimed she had been subjected to continuous harassment since marriage over the alleged additional dowry demand.

# Newlywed subjected to sexual abuse, killed for dowry

Soumitra.Bose
@timesofindia.com

**Nagpur:** A 19-year-old newly wed Nagpur woman, who was allegedly tortured for dowry and subjected to sexual harassment by her brother-in-law, was strangled to death last Friday by her in-laws, who claimed it as a fatal heart attack, said police.

The plot unravelled after her body was exhumed last Sunday for autopsy, which revealed compression marks on the neck and signs of asphyxia, pointing to strangulation.

The woman's parents had performed her last rites at a Muslim graveyard in Amravati city, where they resided.

Two audio recordings of the woman's desperate calls to her mother were also clinching evidence that led to registration of a murder FIR and arrest of her husband and brother-in-law late Tuesday. Her elderly father-in-law is yet to be taken into custody.

The accused were remanded to police custody till Friday. A day after her parents were told she had died, they reached Nagpur and got possession of daughter's body after a prolonged standof, buried her in their native Amravati.

# Court acquits family in dowry death case, seeks action against police

Mohammad.Dilshad
@timesofindia.com

**Agra:** The court of additional district and sessions judge Ravi Kumar Diwakar in Muzaffarnagar on Wednesday acquitted three members of a family in a dowry death and murder case. It also directed the authorities to take disciplinary action against the police officers involved for conducting a faulty investigation and registering a false case against the family.

According to defence lawyer Ramesh Chand Goyal, his clients—Robin Singh (40), his father, Jasvir Singh (70), and his mother, Veermati (65), all residents of Budina Kalan village under Titavi police station—were arrested following the death of Robin's wife, Pinki, in 2013.

Pinki's father, Madan Pal Singh, then lodged a complaint alleging his daughter was murdered over dowry demands on May 23, 2013. A case under relevant sections of the law was registered and the accused were arrested.

The police later filed a chargesheet in court under provisions of IPC and the Dowry Prohibition Act. However, after examining witness testimonies and the evidence presented, the court found the allegations unsubstantiated and acquitted all three accused. A medical evaluation later revealed that Pinki had actually died of illness.

In its order, the court observed that in many dowry death cases, police tend to arrest and jail the accused immediately after an FIR is registered without conducting a fair and impartial investigation. The court remarked that such imprisonment causes severe social stigma and mental trauma to the accused and their families, adding that even after securing bail, society continues to view them with suspicion. The court also criticised the police for filing a chargesheet merely because an FIR under Section 304B (dowry death) of IPC was registered, without properly verifying the truthfulness of the allegations.

# 2 bank officials killed as car crashes into divider, overturns in Aligarh

**Agra:** Two officials of Central Bank of India posted in Aligarh died after their speeding car allegedly lost control, rammed into a divider before crashing into a tree and overturning multiple times near Ali Nagar in Gandhi Park area late Tuesday night, **reports Mohammad Dilshad**.

Police said the impact of the collision was so severe that the vehicle was completely mangled, leaving Vivek Chandra, 38, manager of Harduaganj branch, and Tanya Sharma, 30, assistant manager of Bannadevi branch, with fatal injuries.

SHO Vijay Singh said preliminary investigation suggested that Tanya, who was driving the car, allegedly lost control of the vehicle.

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**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

Publication of E-TENDER NOTICE No. B/TRD.2026-27/06 Dt: 15.05.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

| Item of work | Approx.Value |
|---|---|
| Bifurcation of elementary section and modification of umbrella structures at Somanayakkanpatti, Yesvantpur, Hindupur, Gauribidanur, Rangepalli, Sri Sathya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam, Basampalle and Makkajipalli stations | Rs. 91,03,534.98/- |

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 05.06.2026**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Bengaluru

PUB/134/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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**NOTICE For 8th PENSION ADALAT-2026**

**SMPA has decided to organize a Pension Adalat on 30.05.2026, Saturday at 11.00 a.m. at Calcutta Port Trust Officers' Club at 93, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata-700020 to redress the grievances, if any, relating to Pension/ Settlement dues of the employees who retired from Kolkata Dock System of Syama Prasad Mookerjeee Port, Kolkata. Grievances in the prescribed Pro-forma should be sent directly to Accounts Officer (Gr-I), Pension Section of Finance Department at 6, Fairlie Ware House, Strand Road, Jetty Building (1st Floor) Kolkata-700001 (pension@smportkolkata.shipping.gov.in) on or before 25.05.2026 duly superscribing "PENSION ADALAT June-2026". The prescribed Pro-forma in this regard is uploaded on the official website at https://smportkolkata.shipping.gov.in/smpk/en/pensioners-corner/**

FA&CAO, SMPA

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**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

Tender notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/183/2026 dated 15.05.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

| Item of Work | Approx.Value |
|---|---|
| Annual Maintenance of IPMS Software at South Western Railway construction Office Bengaluru. | Rs. 37,80,000/- |

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 09.06.2026**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works, Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/135/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH**

**TENDER NOTICE**

| Sr. No. | Name of Work | Bid Submission Schedule (Online) | Opening Technical Bid (Online) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No. 1** | | | |
| 1. | Re-Carpeting of Various Roads and Parkings under Road Sub Division No.-12, M.C. Chandigarh (2026-2027) (Community Center Parking Sector 49, V-6 Road Sector 49C, V-5 Road 49 A&B and C&D, Internal Road of STP Plant and Ind. Area Ph.II). Capital Head : Improvement of Roads/Parking Places & Infrastructure Facilities. Est. Cost : Rs. 419.37 Lacs EMD : Rs. 8,38,745/- Time Limit : 06 Months | 21.05.2026 To 28.05.2026 upto 12.00 noon | 28.05.2026 at 12.00 noon |

Note:- All other terms and conditions and complete DNIT are uploaded on website https://etenders.chd.nic.in

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**

Roads Division No.1, Room No.304, M.C. Chandigarh Ph. (O) 0172-5021626

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**S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER**

On behalf of President of India, Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom. Engineer, S. E. Railway, Adra, Pin-723121, West Bengal invites following e-tender for the following work. Details are available at website **www.ireps.gov.in. Sl. No.; Tender Notice No.; Name of the work & Tender Value** respectively : **(1); SnT_e_Tender_ADA 26_27_10;** Reliability, Improvement of Telecom Equipments including Railnet and Replacement of 48V charger at OFC room over Adra Division; ₹ 1,94,06,809.50; **(2); SnT_e_Tender_ADA_26_27_11;** S&T work in connection with conversion of Chowrasi Siding as block station with block working system between Chowrasi and Ramkanali along with EI working system at Chowrasi; ₹ 5,43,67,021.58; **Closing date & time of tender** is 08/06/2026 - 11:00 Hrs. (for Sl. No. 1 & 2).

(PR-203)

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**Directorate of Geology and Mining, Nagpur**
**Government of Maharashtra**
**Email: mineralblockauction@mahadgm.gov.in**

Date: 21/05/2026

**Notice Inviting Tender**

**"Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease for Limestone, Bauxite, Aluminous Laterite & Laterite, Bauxite and Aluminous Laterite mineral and for grant of Composite Licence for Copper and Bauxite Ore."**

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10-B and Section 11 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 notified thereunder, the Government of Maharashtra has identified:

a) 08 (eight) mineral blocks [4 (four) blocks of Bauxite and Aluminous Laterite, 2 (two) blocks of Limestone, 1 (one) block of Bauxite, 1 (one) block of Aluminous Laterite & Laterite] for electronic auction, and hereby invites bids for the purpose of grant of Mining Lease.

b) 04 (four) mineral blocks [3 (three) blocks of Bauxite, 1 (one) block of Copper] for electronic auction, and hereby invites bids for the purpose of grant of *Composite Licence*.

The list of mineral blocks is as under:

| S. No. | Name of Block | Mineral | Concession Type |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Kurli Limestone Block | Limestone | Mining Lease |
| 2. | Dhunaki-Lakhamapur Limestone Block | Limestone | Mining Lease |
| 3. | Kudopi Bauxite Block | Bauxite | Mining Lease |
| 4. | Sheel-Taralwadi Bauxite / Al Laterite Block-A | Bauxite and Aluminous Laterite | Mining Lease |
| 5. | Sheel-Taralwadi Bauxite / Al Laterite Block-B | Bauxite and Aluminous Laterite | Mining Lease |
| 6. | Sheel-Taralwadi Bauxite / Al Laterite Block-C | Bauxite and Aluminous Laterite | Mining Lease |
| 7. | Sheel-Taralwadi Bauxite / Al Laterite Block-D | Bauxite and Aluminous Laterite | Mining Lease |
| 8. | Markagondi Al-Laterite & Laterite Block | Aluminous Laterite & Laterite | Mining Lease |
| 9. | Lal Heti Copper Block | Copper | Composite Licence |
| 10. | Sandve Bauxite Block | Bauxite | Composite Licence |
| 11. | Sadewadi-II Bauxite Block | Bauxite | Composite Licence |
| 12. | Khatweshwar-II Bauxite Block | Bauxite | Composite Licence |

*The price of Tender Document for each mineral block is Rs.5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh) exclusive of GST. The GST shall be payable by reverse charge mechanism.*

Accordingly, financial bids are invited in digital format only and technical bids are invited both in digital and physical format from eligible bidders.

Eligibility conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Detailed Tender Documents along with timelines, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process for the mineral blocks are available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the the website of MSTC Limited: (http://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp).

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above website. On successful registration, eligible bidders will obtain login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and Mineral Block Summary are available free of cost on the above website.

Key events and their timelines are as under:

| Event Description | Date |
|---|---|
| Date of Publication of Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) | **Thursday, 21 May, 2026** |
| Commencement of sale of Tender Document | **Monday, 25 May, 2026** |
| Pre-Bid Conference | **Wednesday, 24 June, 2026** |
| Last date for purchase of Block Specific Tender Document | **Monday, 13 July, 2026** |
| The last date for submission of the Technical Bid and initial price offer | **Monday, 20 July, 2026** |

**Note:**

Bidders may note that for composite licences the Mineral (Auction) Amendment Rules, 2022 have dispensed with the requirement of indicating the division of the land into forest land, land owned by the State Government, and land not owned by the State Government and the requirement of demarcating the area using total station and differential global positioning system and has provided the flexibility of demarcating the concession area using global positioning system.

However, the requisite demarcation in respect of certain blocks, as and where available, may be provided as part of the information memorandum.

**DGIPR/2025-2026/874**

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**BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED** B-Smile

Office of the Project Engineer-01, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited No.30/1, 3rd Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Miller Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052

No: B-SMILE/PE-01/TEND/04/2026-27 Date: 20.05.2026

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER(NIT)**

(Through http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only) (Competitive Bidding under Two Cover System)

The Government of Karnataka has constituted "Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited" (B-SMILE) for implementation of Specific Infrastructure works in the city of Bengaluru. On behalf of the Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), The Project Engineer-01, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) invites tenders from eligible contractors registered with CPWD/KPWD / Railways / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the development of work through Engineering Procurement & Construction (EPC) mode. The details of the work are as under.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work / Amount Put to tender/EMD/Construction Period |
|---|---|
| 1 | Construction of Elevated corridor from Old Madras Road to Electronic City flyovervia Swami Vivekananda Metro Station Indiranagar Old Airport road - Hosur road Silk Board Junction in Bengaluru city (Length 5.20 kms) using Ultra High-Performance Fiber Reinforced Concrete (UHPFRC) under Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Mode on Lumpsum, Turkey with allowable Price Escalation based structures including maintenance for a period of 10 years. Amount put To tender (Excluding GST) : **Rs. 852.00 Crores,** Earnest Money Deposit : **Rs. 8.52 Crores (Rs. 1.00 Lakhs E-payment & Balance through Surety Bond/ E-BG).** Construc tion Period : **18 Months(In cluding Monsoon Period).** |
| 2 | Construction of Elevated Corridors from' Sholay Circle to St. John Hospital Road on Hosur Road via Anepalya Junction and Adugodi Junction (Length 5.30 kms) using UltraHigh-Performance Fiber Reinforced Concrete (UHPFRC) under Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Mode on Lumpsum, Turkey with allowable Price Escalation based structures including maintenance for a period of 10 years. Amount put To tender (Excluding GST) : **Rs.519.00 Crores.** Earnest Money Deposit : **Rs. 5.19 Crores (Rs. 1.00 Lakhs E-payment & Balance through Surety Bond/ E-BG).** Construc tion Period : **18 Months(In cluding Monsoon Period).** |
| 3 | Construction of Elevated Corridor from Doddaballapura road (Police Station Junction) to NH-7(Navayuga Flyover) at Kogilu circle via Old Yelahanka town (Length 1.50kms) using Ultra High-Performance Fiber Reinforced Concrete (UHPFRC) under Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Mode on Lumpsum, Turkey with allowable Price Escalation based structures including maintenance for a period of 10 years. Amount put To tender (Excluding GST) : **Rs.103.00 Crores.** Earnest Money Deposit : **Rs. 1.03 Crores (Rs. 1.00 Lakhs E-payment & Balance through Surety Bond/ E-BG).** Construc tion Period : **18 Months(In cluding Monsoon Period).** |

**Calendar of events: 1)** Date and time for Availability of Tender documents in KPP Portal **- 25.05.2026 at 17:30 Hours. 2)** Last date for submission of pre bid queries **-04.06.2026 @ 16:00Hours. 3)** Date and time of Pre-bid meeting **: 05.06.2026 @ 14:30Hours, 4)** Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders **24.06.2026 at 16:00 Hours. 5)** Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bids **: 25.06.2026 at 16:30 Hours. 6)** Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid **- Will be Notified. 7)** Validity of Bids : **180 days from Last Date for receipt of tenders.**

**Sd/- Project Engineer-01**
**Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE)**

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**BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED** B-Smile

Office of the Project Engineer-04 Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited Ground Floor, Annex-2 Building, GBA Head office, N R Square, Bengaluru-560 002

No: B-SMILE/PE-04/TEND/01/2026-27 Date: 20.05.2026

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER(NIT)**

(Through http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only) (Competitive Bidding under Two Cover System)

The Government of Karnataka has constituted "Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited" (B-SMILE) for implementation of Specific Infrastructure works in the city of Bengaluru. On behalf of the Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), The Project Engineer-04, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) invites tenders from eligible contractors registered with CPWD/KPWD / Railways / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the development of work through Engineering Procurement & Construction (EPC) mode. The details of the work are as under.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work / Amount Put to tender/EMG/Construction Period |
|---|---|
| 1 | Construction of Elevated Corridors from Minverva Circle to Hudson Circle and loop flyover from existing Bala Gangadhara Nath Swamiji flyover to Townhall and Elevated Corridors from Sangolli Rayanna circle (Anandrao Flyover) to Nrupathung road (KR Circle) in Bengaluru City (Length 7.00 kms) using Ultra High-Performance Fiber Reinforced Concrete (UHPFRC) under Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Mode on Lumpsum, Turkey with allowable Price Escalation based structures including Maintenance for a period of 10 years. Amount put To tender (Excluding GST) : **Rs. 55723.15 Lakhs,** Earnest Money Deposit : **Rs. 558.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakhs E-payment & Balance through Surety Bond/ E-BG).** Construc tion Period : **18 Months.** |

**Calendar of events: 1)** Date and time for Availability of Tender documents in KPP Portal **- 25.05.2026 at 17:30 Hours. 2)** Last date for submission of pre bid queries **-04.06.2026 @ 16:00Hours. 3)** Date and time of Pre-bid meeting **: 05.06.2026 @ 14:30Hours, 4)** Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders **24.06.2026 at 16:00 Hours. 5)** Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bids **: 25.06.2026 at 16:30 Hours. 6)** Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid **- Will be Notified. 7)** Validity of Bids : **180 days from Last Date for receipt of tenders.**

**Sd/- Project Engineer-04**
**Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE)**

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**25001/192/2627**

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR (At/Po- Ambapua, Near Income Tax office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)

(E-Mail :- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com, Tel No. :- 0680-2404287)

E-Mail / E-despatch

**No. e-tender // 3356// RWC// BAM // Dated. 18.05.2026**

**2nd Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Online Tender/64-2025-26/BPR**

1) The partial modification of Bridge works under **SETU BANDHANA YOJANA for the year 2024-25** vide above identification has been made as follows.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Date of availability of tender | :: | **05.06.2026 to 19.06.2026 upto 5.30 PM** instead of 14.05.2026 to 29.05.2026 upto 5.30 PM. |
| 2 | Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification | :: | **17.06.2026 at 5.30 PM** instead of 27.05.2026 at 5.30 PM |
| 3 | Date of opening of Technical Bid. | :: | **20.06.2026 at 11.00 AM** instead of 30.05.2026 at 11.00 AM |
| 4 | Date of opening of Financial Bid | :: | **Will be intimated later on.** |

**All other contents will remain unchanged.**

Sd/-
**Chief Engineer**
**R.W.Circle, Berhampur**
OIPR-25001/25071/1/26-27/0008

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**4001/97/2627**

**ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD.**
**(A GOVT. OF ODISHA UNDERTAKING)**
CIN: U40101OR1995SGC003963
REGD.OFFICE: OHPC Corporate Office, Bhoi Nagar, Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022
Phone: 91-0674-2542983, 2542802, 2545526, 2542826
E-mail: ohpc.co@gmail.com

**No. OHPC:OHPC:TECH:C&P:51/2025/26/ 4420 Date : 12.05.2026**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Sealed Tenders are invited in two-part bidding system i.e. (i) Techno Commercial bid and (ii) Price bid in separate sealed envelopes from eligible bidders as per this tender specification possessing valid HT Electrical Contractor license or a registered HV electrical consortium firm with valid GST Registration Certificate & IT PAN for the following work as detailed below:

| Description of Work | Cost of Tender paper (Non-refundable) in Rs. | EMD in shape of DD/BC/BG/ (Refundable) in Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| **Supply, Erection, Testing, and Commissioning of 33 KV Single Line Circuit from 220/132/33 KV GSS, Jaypatna (Baner) to the proposed 600 MW Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project, Ranibahal, Kalahandi on turnkey contract basis.** | **11,800/-** (inclusive of GST) | **4,96,000/-** |

For details of the tender documents, terms & conditions and corrigendum etc. please visit/refer our official website **www.ohpc.co.in** from **Dated 22.05.2026**

OIPR-4001/4088/1/26-27/0002 C & P Head

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**25001/191/2627**

ଓଡିଶା ସରକାର
ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ସମ୍ବଲପୁର

By e-Despatch/By e-Mail
Mail- serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com

**Office order No. 2575 // Dated. 19.05.2026**

**1st corrigendum Bid Identification No.PMGSY Online RWCSBP-08/2026-27.**

Following modifications are hereby made to the notice inviting tender vide this office Bid ID No. **PMGSY Online RWCSBP-08/2026-27.**

1. The last Date and Time of submission of original documents (EMD, Tender paper cost, Affidavit etc.) may be read as on or before 08.06.2026 at 11.00 AM through online in website **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in** instead of from 12.06.2026 by 5.00 PM.

All other terms and condition remain unchanged.

Sd/-
**Chief Construction Engineer,**
**R.W. Circle, Sambalpur**
OIPR-25001/25091/1/26-27/0005

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**25001/190/2627**

By E_Mail/e-Despatch
E_Mail ID : serw_balasore@yahoo.in
Ph-No-06782/260318
Balia, Balasore

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER**
**RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE**

**"e" Procurement Notice for Road Work**

**Identification No. - Online Tender - Road N.C.B. No. 02 for 2026-27**

**Letter No. 2230 Date : 13.05.2026**

1. Name of the work : **MMSY-TRIP/MMSY-CMRL/DRR/PoWaR**
2. Total No. of Work : **31 Nos. of work.**
3. Estimated Cost : As per Annexure
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : As per Annexure
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure
6. Other details :

| Procurement Officer | Bid Identification No. | Availability of tender on-line for bidding | | Last date & time of seeking tender clarification | Date & Time of opening of tender in O/O S.E.R.W. Circle, Balasore | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | From | To | | Technical Bid | Financial Bid |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore | NCB No. 02 of 2026-27 | 25.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M. | 16.06.2026 upto 5.00 P.M. | 12.06.2026 upto 5.00 P.M. | 17.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M. | Will be intimated latter |

- Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**.

Sd/-
**Chief Construction Engineer**
**R.W. Circle, Balasore**
**OIPR - 25001/25105/1/26-27/0006**

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**Government of Maharashtra**
**The World Bank Funded**
**Hon. Balasaheb Thackeray Agribusiness &**
**Rural Transformation (SMART) Project**
MSFC Building, 270, Bhamburda, Senapati Bapat Road, Pune 411016
Telephone: 91-20-25656577, Website www.smart-mh.org

**Framework Agreement for selection of agencies to provide the non-consultancy services for design, develop, and deploy solutions at scale in the domains of Markets and Logistics (Including Traceability).**

**Tender Reference No.: IN-PCMU-SMART-539471-NC-RFB**

Online bids are invited from eligible and qualified bidders for entering into Framework Agreement for selection of agencies to provide the non-consultancy services for design, develop, and deploy solutions at scale in the domains of Markets and Logistics (Including Traceability). Request for Bids (RFB) document is available on **https://mahatenders.gov.in** and the project website **www.smart-mh.org** from 21/05/2026. Interested Bidders should submit their bids online through **https://mahatenders.gov.in** latest by **23/06/2026 up to 02:00 PM.** If there is any change in the RFB document or any other scheduled date, it will be published only on the aforesaid website.

**Sd/-**
**(M J Pradip Chandren, IAS)**
**Project Director, SMART Project**

DGIPR 2026-27/876

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**25001/188/2627**

By E_Mail/e-Despatch
E-Mail ID: serw_balasore@yahoo.in
Ph-No- 06782/260318
Balia, Balasore

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER**
**RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE**

**"e" Procurement Notice for Road Work**

**Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No. 03 for 2026-27**

**Letter No. 2249 Date. 14.05.2026**

1. Name of the work : **SDMF**
2. Total No. of work : **7 Nos. of work.**
3. Estimated Cost : As per annexure.
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : As per annexure.
5. Period of Completion : As per annexure.
6. Other details:

| Procurement Officer | Bid Identification No. | Availability of tender On-line for bidding | | Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification | Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O S.E.R.W. Circle, Balasore | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | From | To | | Technical bid | Financial bid |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore | NCB No.-03 of 2026-27 | 25.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M. | 16.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M. | 12.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M. | 17.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M. | Will be intimated later |

- Further details can be seen from the website: **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/- **Chief Construction Engineer**
**R.W. Circle, Balasore**
**OIPR-25001/25105/1/26-27/0005**

# Centre ropes in tech giants to curb fake NEET leak posts

## Security, Intelligence Agencies Asked To Ensure Foolproof Conduct

Manash.Gohain
@timesofindia.com

**Concerns were raised over the growing spread of fake content through Telegram channels, anonymous groups and automated bots that become highly active before major exams**

**New Delhi:** Centre on Wednesday enlisted the support of major social media platforms, including Meta, Google and Telegram, to crack down on rumours, fake paper leak claims and panic-inducing posts ahead of June 21 NEET-UG re-examination, as govt steps up efforts to restore confidence in the country's biggest medical entrance test after the recent paper leak controversy.

Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan chaired a high-level meeting with representatives of the social media companies and separately reviewed security preparations with central intelligence and law enforcement agencies, directing a "focused crackdown" on organised misinformation networks operating online before exams.

According to education ministry officials, concerns were raised over the growing spread of fake content through Telegram channels, anonymous groups and automated bots that become highly active before major exams. Officials said many such channels circulate fabricated paper leak claims, clickbait messages and unverified information designed to trigger panic and confusion among students and parents.

"Several suspicious channels were found to be operating through a limited set of phone numbers, indicating coordinated and organised activity," a senior Union education ministry official said, citing inputs shared by intelligence agencies during the meeting.

It is learnt that the social media platforms assured govt of proactive cooperation in identifying, blocking and removing misleading content linked to examinations, officials said. Pradhan directed the companies to work closely with the ministry, National Testing Agency (NTA) and law enforcement agencies to ensure swift takedowns of channels spreading "fake information, propaganda and panic". Officials said intelligence and security agencies were also asked to strengthen digital surveillance and monitor emerging online patterns in the run-up to the examination. Special attention is being given to encrypted messaging platforms and rapidly expanding groups that claim to provide advance access to examination material or "inside information" to candidates.

The re-examination was announced after the cancellation of the May 3 test following allegations that parts of the paper had been leaked.

# 20-day security overhaul for NEET re-examination after paper leak row

Manash.Gohain
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Stricter digital tracking systems, tighter confidentiality protocols for question paper handling, randomisation mechanisms, enhanced police supervision during transportation and storage of examination material, and real-time coordination with district administrations formed the centrepiece of a high-level review meeting chaired by education minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday ahead of the June 21 NEET-UG re-examination. The ministry has set a 20-day window for the NTA to spruce up the system to deliver an enhanced secured test.

The meeting, attended by senior officials from the ministry of education, NTA, CBSE, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, carried out a detailed stage-by-stage review of the entire examination chain following the paper leak controversy that forced cancellation of the earlier test.

"Every vulnerability identified in the earlier process must be comprehensively plugged. The re-examination has to be conducted in a secure, seamless and foolproof manner under stringent security protocols," Pradhan told TOI after the meeting.

According to officials present, discussions covered every operational layer — from empanelment and vetting of subject experts to question paper preparation, printing, packaging, dispatch, centre-level security, frisking protocols, storage arrangements and the return movement of OMR sheets back to NTA.

A significant part of the discussions focused on the process of selecting and handling question paper setters and moderators. Officials deliberated on stricter background verification, limited-access systems, compartmentalisation of paper-setting work, enhanced confidentiality agreements and tighter digital isolation protocols to reduce the possibility of leaks at the source.

# Kuno cheetahs to shift to Gujarat's Banni grasslands

P.Naveen@timesofindia.com

**Bhopal:** In a major step towards taking the Centre's ambitious cheetah reintroduction programme beyond the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, a special expert team constituted under "Project Cheetah" has handed in its assessment report on Gujarat's Banni grasslands as another home for the feline species. The report has been submitted to the high-powered steering committee overseeing the programme.

This paves the way for the first translocation of African cheetahs outside Kuno. The report, prepared after an extensive field assessment of Banni in Gujarat's Kutch region, was submitted by a team headed by Uttam Sharma, director of "Project Cheetah", and comprising senior experts, including an official from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and a wildlife veterinarian from Kuno National Park, sources told **TOI**.

TOI

NEW HOME

The team is understood to have evaluated multiple parameters critical for cheetah introduction, including prey density, habitat suitability, veterinary preparedness, enclosure readiness, human-wildlife interface, landscape connectivity, and long-term management requirements.

The new report has now been placed before the special steering committee formed under "Project Cheetah", which will decide the next course of action, including whether Banni is ready to host cheetahs, the number of animals to be shifted and the timeline for their relocation.

## Fresh tiger death in MP could be sixth CDV case

Times News Network

**Bhopal:** A fresh tiger death in Madhya Pradesh's Kanha National Park on Tuesday is suspected to be from Canine Distemper Virus (CDV), in what would be the sixth such mortality in one of the state's principal tiger habitats, if confirmed. The initial postmortem examination found lung infection along with injury marks on the animal, putting the forest department on alert.

The male tiger, aged 5-6 years, was found dead in compartment number 156 of Beat Mohgaon in Mukki Range of Kanha Tiger Reserve. Forest officers were already monitoring the area after receiving information that the animal was injured and unwell.

## NEET paper leak to delay Maha engg, pharmacy college admissions

Mahiyar.Patel
@timesofindia.com

**Mumbai:** The NEET paper leak is set to delay admissions and the start of the academic year for engineering and pharmacy colleges in Maharashtra.

State minister for higher and technical education Chandrakant Patil said on Wednesday that admissions for nine engineering branches and 15% pharmacy seats reserved under the all-India quota are dependent on NEET scores, meaning the process cannot proceed until the re-examination is conducted and fresh results are declared.

The state minister for higher and technical education made these remarks while announcing a slew of measures aimed at tightening regulation of college fee collection and expansion of financial relief for girl students pursuing higher education.

# Now 18, rape survivor wants to marry accused; Himachal HC grants him bail

Sanjeev.Verma@timesofindia.com

**Shimla:** Himachal Pradesh HC has granted regular bail to a man accused of raping a minor, observing the survivor, now an adult, wished to marry the accused and raise their two-month-old child together. HC passed the order on a petition moved by the accused, who has been behind bars since March 20 in connection with an FIR registered in Sirmaur district.

While acknowledging consent of a minor was immaterial under Pocso Act, HC observed the survivor was around 17-and-a-half years old at the time of the alleged incident and there appeared to be a consensual relationship between the two. The bench also noted she was living with the accused's mother and his continued incarceration would adversely affect the woman and newborn. The case came to light after a govt doctor alerted police on March 19 that a girl brought for delivery was a minor. Police found she was under 18 at the time.


**NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CEMENT AND BUILDING MATERIALS**
(Under the Administrative Control of DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)
34 KM Stone, Delhi-Mathura Road (NH-2), Ballabgarh-121004, Haryana, India.
Ph: +91-129-2666600, Website: www.ncbindia.com

Advertisement No.: R/01/2026 (01)
15 May 2026

**Requires (Direct Recruitment)**

National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCB), Ballabgarh requires Scientist/Engineers (L-10, L-11 & L-12), **Office Assistant** (Level-6), **Assistant-Hindi** (Level-3) and **Administrative Assistant (PwBD Blind/Low- Vision)** (Level-3) on Direct Recruitment basis. For detailed information, please visit the website **www.ncbindia.com**. Any amendment or any post advertisement information shall be available on NCB website only. The last date for receipt of application shall be 21 days from the date of publication of this advertisement (first day of the week) in the Employment News.

CBC 05207/12/0004/2627 — DIRECTOR GENERAL

MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Process and Product Development Centre
Extension Centre - Coimbatore Organizes
Online Training Program On
**EV CHARGING STATION**
Course Content: EV Charging Station & Technologies, Types of Charging Station, Rate Contract, Implementation Mechanism, EV Stations Infrastructures & Business Opportunities, Tariff Rate for supply, Solar - PV Charging Connectivity loads, Electricity of EV PCS, Models for EV Charging Station, ROI Calculation, Land Leasing, Govt. Scheme
For Registration
Date: 25th - 29th May 2026 | Time: 06.00 P.M - 09.00 P.M
Fees: 4,250/- (Inclusive of GST) | Duration: (5 Days) (Mon - Fri)
Contact: 9600776611, 8667359360, 7358887633
Visit us at:www.ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in
E- Certificate will be Awarded
Disclaimer: Be aware of fraudulent activities. We never ask to make payment on any personal account.

**MADHYA PRADESH METRO RAIL CORPORATION LIMITED**
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India and Govt. of Madhya Pradesh)
Admin Building, Subhash Nagar Metro Rail Depot,
Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh-462023
Ph. : 0755-2475607, E-mail : metrorail@mpurban.gov.in
Website : www.mpmetrorail.com

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT**

Madhya Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MPMRCL), a joint venture of Government of India and Government of Madhya Pradesh is implementing Bhopal Metro Rail Project & Indore Metro Rail Project in the State of Madhya Pradesh. To meet with the immediate requirement, MPMRCL invites applications for the post of

**GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL/UNDERGROUND)**

This Advertisement is only indicative. The detailed vacancy notifications and particulars regarding eligibility criteria, qualification, experience, age limit, mode of selection etc. are available, in the Career sections of MPMRCL website **www.mpmetrorail.com**. Please refer Advt. No. 4482/HRD/MPMRCL-076/2026, dated 20.05.2026 for more details.
Last date for submission of online applications for the notifications is **21.06.2026.**
M.P. Madhyam/125875/2026 — **MD, MPMRCL**

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, देवघर
**ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES DEOGHAR**
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान)
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)
भारत सरकार/Government of India

No:- AIIMS/Deo/Advt. Publish/Admin./2026/03 Date:20.05.2026
**Advertisement for Recruitment of Various Non-Faculty Posts on Deputation & Contractual Basis at AIIMS Deoghar**
The AIIMS, Deoghar invites applications from eligible and suitable candidates for the following posts on deputation & contractual basis:-

(Advt.No-AIIMS/Deoghar/Admin./Rect./Deputation-Phase-XIV/2026/07 Dated:20.05.2026) On Deputation Basis

| Sl. No. | Name of the Post | Group | Pay Scale | No. of Posts |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Medical Superintendent | A | Level 14 as per 7th CPC (Rs.144200–218200) +NPA | 01 |
| 2 | Nursing Superintendent | A | Level 11 as per 7th CPC (Rs.67700–208700) | 02 |
| 3 | Assistant Controller of Examination | A | Level 11 as per 7th CPC (Rs.67700–208700) | 01 |
| 4 | Deputy Nursing Superintendent | A | Level 10 as per 7th CPC (Rs.56100–177500) | 02 |
| 5 | Assistant Nursing Superintendent | A | Level 10 as per 7th CPC (Rs.56100–177500) | 04 |
| 6 | Accounts Officer | A | Level10 as per 7th CPC (Rs.56100–177500) | 01 |
| 7 | Assistant Store Officer | B | Level 07 as per 7th CPC (Rs.44900–142400) | 02 |
| 8 | Assistant Administrative Officer | B | Level 07 as per 7th CPC (Rs. 44900–142400) | 02 |
| 9 | Assistant Accounts Officer | B | Level 07 as per 7th CPC (Rs.44900–142400) | 03 |
| 10 | Driver Grade II | C | Level-04 as per 7th CPC (Rs.25500-81100) | 01 |

(Advt.No-AIIMS/Deo/Cont.Rect./Non-Faculty/1/2026/12 Dated: 20.05.2026) On Contractual Basis

| Sl. No. | Name of the Post | Age Limit | Total No. of Posts | Category |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Blood Transfusion Officer | 21-40Years | 01 | UR |
| 2 | Senior Programmer | Not exceeding 50 Years | 01 | UR |
| 3 | Public Relation Officer | 30-45 Years | 01 | UR |
| 4 | Assistant Blood Transfusion Officer | 18-30 years | 01 | UR |
| 5 | Law Officer | 30-45 Years | 01 | UR |
| 6 | Security Officer | 18-35 Years | 01 | UR |
| 7 | Asst. Engineer (Electrical) | Not exceeding 35 Years | 01 | UR |
| 8 | Sanitation Officer | Not more than 50 years | 01 | UR |
| 9 | Biomedical Engineer | 21-35 years | 01 | UR |
| 10 | Laundry Manager | Up to 50 Years | 01 | UR |
| 11 | Perfusionist | 18-30 years (relaxable upto 40 Years for employees of AIIMS) | 01 | UR |

For detailed advertisements, the interested candidate may visit the job section of the official website **https://www.aiimsdeoghar.edu.in/**. The last date for submission of application is 45 days from the publishing of the advertisement at Employment News.
-Sd- Recruitment Cell, AIIMS Deoghar

**BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION**
Office of the Commissioner, Opposite to Phoenix Mall, ITPL Main Road, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru-560048

No.: Comm/BECC/PS/e-190011/2025-26 — Date: 18.05.2026

FORM-I
**NOTIFICATION** {Under Sec 14B(4)(i)}

In exercise of powers conferred under section 14-B (4) of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act 1961 the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by The Commissioner, Bengaluru East City Corporation for purpose of **Biomethanation Unit Dry and Wet Waste Management at Hoodi Ward of Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency (BSWML).** It is hereby informed to the land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose, to appear and submit their claims along with the copies of the relevant documents viz, (i) Sale /Partition / other deeds of title, (ii) Up-to-date RTC's (iii) Mutation Copy (iv) Tax paid receipts (V) conversion order of Non agriculture purpose (vi) Revenue sketch (vii) Akar band etc., in person in the place within thirty days from the date of publication of this notification as indicated in the address below and state their respective interest in such land.

| The place where land owners / interested persons have to appear and submit their claims | Name and address of the Divisional / Sub divisional / branch offices | Date and Time |
|---|---|---|
| The Deputy Commissioner (LAQ & TDR) BECC, Office of the Commissioner, Opposite to Phoenix Mall, ITPL Main Road, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru-560048 | Executive Engineer, Kadugodi Division, Hoodi Main Road, Hoodi, Mahadevapura Zone-2 | 30 days from the date of Notification. Time : 10.00 A.M to 5.00 P.M. |

The land owners / interested parties of the scheduled properties whose lands are to be acquired shall give the consent for Grant of Development Rights to the Commissioner, Bengaluru East City Corporation.
The land owners shall receive twice the area of land surrendered in lieu of monetary compensation as DR (Notional land) and two time the building area surrendered as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered divided by the Market value of the land on which the building is constructed. The Notional land can be utilized by factorizing with the market value at the originating plot and receiving plot. The Notional land is eligible for FAR and can be used as additional built up area at the receiving plot as per the terms and conditions prescribed in the Benefit of Development Rights Rules, 2016.
The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Rights Certificates (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition Officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (LAQ & TDR), BECC within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

**SCHEDULE**

Acquisition of land required for the purpose of **Biomethanation Unit Dry and Wet Waste Management at Hoodi Ward of Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency (BSWML)**

Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** — Name of the Taluk: **Bengaluru East** — Name of the Village: **Sadaramangala**

| Sl. No. | Sy. No. / Khata No. | Type of land: Vacant | Type of land: Built up | Nature of Land: Agriculture | Nature of Land: Converted undeveloped | Nature of Land: Approved layout / developed land Building site | Dimension of the land / plot and extent in Sq.m: Dimension | Dimension of the land / plot and extent in Sq.m: Extent | Boundaries of the land / plot: North | Boundaries of the land / plot: South | Boundaries of the land / plot: East | Boundaries of the land / plot: West | Building Details: Extent in Sq.m | Building Details: Type of Construction and No. of floors | Building Details: Floor Area Ratio | Present activity on land / Building (Specify Specific activity such as shop, office, factory, apartment, individual house etc.,) | Market (guide lines) value of the land per Sqm*: Agriculture/ B-Khatha | Market (guide lines) value of the land per Sqm*: Converted undeveloped | Market (guide lines) value of the land per Sqm*: Developed Site | Name and address of the owner of the plot / land for which DRC is to be issued / already issued |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 59/2 | Vacant | | Converted Land | | | 8634.57 | | Sy No.61 (Govt Lake) | Govt Road and Sy.No.60 | Remaining Portion of Sy.No. 59/2 and Sy.No.58 | Sy No.59/1, 59/3 and 60 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 48,000/- | K.A. Manjunath, S/o. Late K.G. Adavishaiah & The Commissioner Bengaluru East City Corporation |

**Note:**
- **Guideline value: As per Chief Commissioner Circular no: C.Comm/PSR/J/1802/2024-25, Date: 21.09.2024. (GO No: CVC/99/2023-24, Date: 08.01.2023 SRO Mahadevapura Page No- 174 Sl No 733 Site Value per Sq.m. 48,000/-**

Sd/-,
Commissioner, Bengaluru East City Corporation

**UTKAL UNIVERSITY**
VANI VIHAR, BHUBANESWAR-751004, ODISHA
E-mail: registrar@utkaluniversity.ac.in

**Advertisement for Recruitment of Faculty Positions**

No.: Estt.I/1041(Vol-IV)/5816/2026 — Date: 19.05.2026

Established in 1943, Utkal University occupies a foundational place in the higher education landscape of Odisha, emerging from an early generation of public universities that helped shape the intellectual architecture of modern India. Headquartered at its Vani Vihar campus in Bhubaneswar–spread across a sprawling ecosystem of 460 acres enriched by nature's bounty and complemented by the Utkal University Rural Campus at Chandikhole, spread over 66 acres, the University anchors an extensive academic network of nearly 430 affiliated colleges across the state. Embedded within the dynamic intellectual geography of South Asia, it aspires to evolve as a global destination for higher learning. Offering 47 academic programmes across diverse disciplines–including the Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Management–and extending from undergraduate to doctoral levels, the University reflects a wide spectrum of academic engagement. Rooted in a distinguished legacy yet responsive to a transforming knowledge order, it advances cutting-edge curricula, fosters innovation and incubation, and promotes transdisciplinary engagements within contemporary knowledge ecologies. Through its commitment to research excellence and evolving pedagogic practices, it sustains a dynamic interface between heritage, convention, and futurity.

Utkal University invites **online applications from eligible Indian citizens and also Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs)** for appointment to the posts of **Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor** against sanctioned positions across various Post-Graduate Departments, in accordance with Letter No. 5322/HE dated 31.01.2026 issued by the Department of Higher Education, Government of Odisha.

**Disciplines / Departments:**

Analytical & Applied Economics; Anthropology; Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology (AIHCA); Biotechnology; Botany; Business Administration; Chemistry; Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE); Commerce; Computer Science; English; Geography; Geology; History; Library & Information Science; Law; Personnel Management & Industrial Relations (PM&IR); Mathematics; Odia; Philosophy; Physics; Psychology; Political Science; Public Administration; Sanskrit; Sociology; Statistics; Zoology.

**Vacancy positions for different posts:**

| Assistant Professor | Associate Professor | Professor | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 51 | 51 | 39 | 141 |

**Eligibility & Qualifications:**

Minimum qualifications, eligibility criteria, and service conditions shall be **governed by the UGC Regulations/Notifications, 2018/ Government of Odisha** guidelines as amended from time to time.

**Application Process:**

The application process shall be conducted **entirely in online mode** through the HIMS portal: **https://hims.odisha.gov.in/home**

Detailed advertisement, including department-wise vacancies and reservation positions, will be available on the University website: **www.utkaluniversity.ac.in** from **18.05.2026 onwards**.

**Important Dates:**

- **Opening of Online Application:** 19.05.2026
- **Closing of Online Application:** 20.06.2026
- **Last Date for Receipt of Hard Copy (Registered/Speed Post):** 29.06.2026

In addition, a hard copy of the downloaded application form along with all relevant documents must be sent to the **Registrar, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar-751004, Khordha, Odisha** within the stipulated timeline.

**General Instructions:**

Applicants are advised to carefully review all eligibility conditions, qualifications, and procedural requirements before submission.

The University reserves the right to **modify, amend, or cancel** this advertisement, either in part or in full, without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Registrar

## KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

Principal Chief Engineer, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., invites Open Tender in Single Bid system through E-Tendering on IREPS portal from eligible contractors for the following work. **Name of Work:** Carrying out through USFD testing of rails, SEJ's, Lead portion of points crossings and welds in Senior Regional Engineer, Ratnagiri region. **Tender Notice No .: KR-W--1-58-2026-02. Estimated Cost:** Rs.3,35,13,646/- excluding GST. **Closing Date/Time:** 11.06.2026 up to 15:00 hrs for submission of online Offers/Bids. **Completion period:** Twelve months including monsoon. Manual offers shall not be accepted. Please visit https://ireps.gov.in website for details / participation. Corrigendum / addendum will be hosted in this website only.

## BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED
B-Smile

Office of the Project Engineer -07, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited Ground Floor, Annexe-2, Building, GBA Head Office,NR Square, Bengaluru-560002

**No: B-SMILE/PE-07/TEND/01/2026-27** **Date: 20-05-2026**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)**

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
(Competitive Bidding under Two Cover System)

The Government of Karnataka has constituted "Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited" (B-SMILE) for implementation of Specific Infrastructure works in the city of Bengaluru. On behalf of the Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B- SMILE), The Project Engineer-07, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B- SMILE) invites tenders from eligible contractors registered with CPWD/KPWD/ Railways / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the development of work through Engineering Procurement & Construction (EPC) mode. The details of the work are as under.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work |
|---|---|
| 1. | Construction of Grade Separators at Pipeline road from West of Chord Road to Outer Ring Road in Mahalakshmi Layout (Length 2 KM) under Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Mode on Lumpsum, Turnkey with allowable Price Escalation using Ultra High-Performance Fiber Reinforced Concrete (UHPFRC) based structures including 10 years of maintenance. **Amount put to Tender (Excluding GST) :₹.327.46 Crores, EMD: 3.27 Crores** (₹.1.00 Lakh e-Payment & Balance through Surety Bond /E-BG/FDR) |
| 2. | Construction of Split Flyover at MEI Junction on Tumakuru road in front of RNS Shantinikethan (Length-0.50 KM) under Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Mode on Lumpsum, Turnkey with allowable Price Escalation including 10 years of maintenance. **Amount put to Tender (Excluding GST) :₹.40.50 Crores, EMD: 4.05 Crores** (₹.1.00 Lakh e-Payment & Balance through Surety Bond/E-BG/FDR) |

**Calendar of Events :** (1) Date and time for Availability of Tender Documents in KPP Portal: **25-05-2026** at **5:30** pm (2) Last date for submission of pre-bid queries: **04-06-2026** upto **10:00** am (3) Date and time of Pre-bid meeting **05-06-2026** at **3:00** pm (4) Last Date and time for Receipt of Tenders on **24-06-2026 at 4:00** pm. (5) Date and time for Opening of Technical Bids is **25-06-2026** at **4:30** pm. (6) Opening of Financial Bids will be Notified.

**Sd/- Project Engineer-07**
Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited

## TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)

**TENDER NOTICE**

The APTRANSCO invites on-line bids for Spec No.PMM21-e-31/2026 "for supply of 37Nos 160MVA 220/132kV PTRs in 3 Lots (ie., Lot-1: 12Nos., Lot-2- 12Nos. and Lot-3: 13Nos.) for utilization in Augmentation & Construction works at various substations of APTRANSCO. Date and time of availability of tender **21.05.2026** by **17:00 Hrs.** Further details can be seen in website(s): **www.apeprocurement.gov.in**

**For further details Contact No: 9491045249.** **Sd/-**
**R.O.No.GMCC/APTRANSCO/39/26-27** **CHIEF ENGINEER/TRANSMISSION**

## SABARMATI RIVER FRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD (SRFDCL)

Office: 2nd floor, "Riverfront House", Behind H.K. Arts College, Between Gandhi & Nehru Bridge, Pujya Pramukh Swami Maharaj Marg (Riverfront-West), Ahmedabad-380009
websites: https://www.tender.nprocure.com or www.sabarmatiriverfront.com

**Notice Inviting e-Tender**

SRFDCL invites e- tender for the work; "CONSTRUCTION OF RIVERSIDE SAVORIES I.E. BUILDING WITH UNDERGROUND ROAD BETWEEN NEHRU BRIDGE AND ELLISBRIDGE AND CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC PLAZA AND UNDERGROUND PARKING FACILITY AT SANSKAR KENDRA - TAGORE HALL CAMPUS CONNECTING RIVERFRONT ON WESTBANK FOR SRFDCL" Bid document is available on web site: **https://tender.nprocure.com** and Tender information is also available on **www.sabarmatiriverfront.com**
Last date for online bid submission is **24-06-2026, Up to 16.00 Hrs.** Pre-bid meeting for the same will be held on **01.06.2026** at the office of SRFDCL at **3.00 p.m.**

## BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-1, Amurthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru-92.

No: BNCC/EE/(QA/QC)/TEND/03/26-27 Date:20-05-2026

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**
(Two Cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance/Quality Control division, Zone-1, invites Request for Proposal on behalf of The Commissioner, Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below works through KPP portal.

| Sl No. | Name of the work |
|---|---|
| 1. | Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for Improvements to roads and drains Thangamalainagara and Surrounding area in Ward No-47 D J Halli. **Project Cost: ₹.300.00 Lakhs, PMC Amount Reserved: ₹.3.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹.10,000.00** |
| 2. | Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for Improvements to roads and drains of Doddammanagara colony and E Block in Ward D J Halli . **Project Cost: ₹.200.00 Lakhs, PMC Amount Reserved: ₹.2.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹.10,000.00** |

**Calendar of Events :** (1) Pre-Bid Meeting on **29-05-2026** at **11:30** am. (2) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders is **03-06-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Opening of Technical Bid is **04-06-2026** at **4:30** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
QA/QC Division, Zone-1, BNCC

## UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED
Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P) 456001
Ph. 0734- 2525856

**NOTICE INTIVING TENDER**

**USCL/430 Tender ID: 2026_UAD_508730_1 date 20/05/2026**

**Ujjain Smart City Limited Invites online bids from eligible bidders - "Selection of System Integrator (SI) for Establishment and O&M of Integrated Command & Control Centre (ICCC) for Simhastha Kumbh Mela 2028".**

Interested bidders may purchase and submit their proposals online at www.mptenders.gov.in.

| | |
|---|---|
| Earnest Money Deposit | Rs. 50,00,000 /- |
| Cost of Tender Document | Rs. 50,000/- |
| Purchase of Tender Start Date | 20/05/2026 |
| Pre-bid Meeting and Site Visit | 01/06/2026 15:00 hrs |
| Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (Online) | 22/06/2026 upto 17:00 hrs |

For more details, please visit https:// www.mptenders.gov.in. Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be published on this website only. Please note that no queries/clarification will be accepted after the Pre-Bid Meeting. **For, Ujjain Smart City Limited**

## Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board

**Office of the Chief Engineer, Dharwad**
**Sir M. Vishveshvarayya Road, Dharwad-580 001.**
**Ph No. : 0836-2447090, E-mail : kwbcen@gmail.com**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER CALL-3**
**(Through e-Procurement Portal only)**

Tender for the following work is invited (two tender document system) through e-Procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from the eligible Agency/contractors who satisfy the Technical & Financial eligibility criteria. This office Tender Notification No: 169 Dated: 18-05-2026.
Name of Work : Operation & Maintenance of various components constructed under UGD scheme of Dandeli city for a period of 5 years under the savings of the scheme (Lump sum Tender – No Variation) INDENT No.KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT/490/CALL-3. For further information visit e-procurement portal or the Office of the Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S & D. Board, Dharwad may be contacted.
DIPR/DWD/KSMCA/206/2026-27 **Sd/- Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Dharwad.**

## Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka

**4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560041**
**registrar@rguhs.ac.in Tel : +91-80-29601928**

**Date: 19/05/2026**

**E- TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)**

The Registrar Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites auction to nationalized Banks for Competitive rate of interest for placing surplus funds only in nationalized bank in FD Rs.400 Cr. More Details on the Service are provided in the attached Terms of Reference.

**Auction Notice No. RGUHSK/2026-27/AUCTION16**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Auction document available for download | 19-05-2026, 16:09 Hrs. |
| 2 | Last date to submit the query | 30-05-2026, 13:00 Hrs. |
| 3 | Date and time to confirm participation of interest in Auction | 01-06-2026, 13:30 Hrs. |
| 4 | Start date and time of Evaluation | 03-06-2026, 11:30 Hrs. |
| 5 | Live bid | 05.06.2026, 15.00 pm to 15.30 Hrs. |

More details can be fetched from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/756/AKAR/2026-27 **Sd/- Finance Officer**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

## KARNATAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HUBBALLI

**No. KMCRI/SUP-6/95/2026-27** **Dated 20-05-2026**

**ಇ-ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**

(ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆಗಳ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್)

1) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂ. DME/2026-27/SE0718/Call-02

2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಆರ್.ಐಯ್ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞರ ಸೇವೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ 10 ರ ಮೂಲಕ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಈ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಮತ್ತು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು),
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.

## HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly Owned Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN : U31401KA2002SGC030437)
Corporate Office, Navanagar, P.B. Road, Hubballi - 580 025.
Ph. : 0836 - 2223526, E-mail : seepmc.hescom@gmail.com
eepmc1.hescom@gmail.com

**No. : H.E.S.COM/S.E.E.(P.M.C.)/E.E.-P1/A.E.E.-1/2026-27/CYS-1599**
**Date : 16-05-2026**

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**
(Through KPPP e-procurement Portal Only)

**Superintending Engineer (Ele), Projects Monitoring Cell, Corporate Office, HESCOM, Hubballi** invites the below said tenders on lumpsum and TTK Basis in **HESCOM** jurisdiction.

**1) Particulars : Bifurcation of 33 KV S/C Kalakeri Line and Providing Alternanate Source to 33/11 KV Sub-Station Kalakeri, in 33 KV S&L Division, HESCOM Vijayapur on Total Turnkey Basis, Bid Indent No. : HESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT1221.**

The detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by logging in to the **Website : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in after : 16-05-2026.** **Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), Project Monitoring Cell, HESCOM, Hubli.**

DIPR/Dharwad/214/Manipal/2026-27

## ಜಲ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಪುನರವಸತಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ನಂ. 4, ಕೃಮೇಯೋ, ಬೀಳಗಿ, ಕ್ಯಾಂಪ್, ನವನಗರ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕೃ.ಮೇ.ಯೋ./ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಅ./ಪು.ವಿ.–4/ಯೋ.ವಿ.–2/ಟೆಂಡರ್–2/2026–27/155 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20–05–2026

**ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಂತೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : **86, 72 & 81** ಒಟ್ಟು **03** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **2,38,431=00, 22,02,335=00 & 60,31,861=00** ಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **06–06–2026** ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮಾಹಿತಿ, ನಿಬಂಧನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ : **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ : ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಗೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಪುನರವಸತಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ನಂ. 4, ಕೃಮೇಯೋ,
ಬೀಳಗಿ, ಕ್ಯಾಂಪ್, ನವನಗರ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.

ಇಎಇಆ/ಮಾಲೂಕಂಪ/66/ಮಾನೆಪಾ/2026–27

Revenue Department

## OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,

3rd & 4th Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001
**Phone No.** : 080 29565353/29604556/ **Email** : splocaima-21@ka.gov.in

**No: SPLOCA/ADM/Proc-03/04/2026-27** **Date 19-05-2026**

**Publication**

**Expression of Interest to appoint Advocate for Interstate Cases on Contract**

Under the provisions of KTPP and within the powers conferred upon SPLOCA under 6(2) (d) of the KPIDFE act the Competent Authority can appoint legal practitioner or chartered accountant or any other person whose services are necessary for taking possession of assets and realization of the assets of the Financial Establishment.

The SPLOCA calls for an EOI for contract appointment of advocates in Special courts/ District courts/ Consumer courts under PIDFE or other courts required in Dharwad / Belagavi / Maharashtra. Should be resident in Hubli/Dharwad and registered at the Bar in Dharwad HCK. Age not more than 50 years. Proficiency in local language besides Kannada and Hindi and English is essential.

**Last Date: 30th April 2026, 5 pm. Office Address:** O/o SPLOCA, V.V Towers Podium Block, Bengaluru-01.**Email:** splocaima21@gmail.com. Visit: **https://sploca.org/ for further details and forms.**

**Sd/-**
**Special Officer and Competent Authority**
**IMA & other KPIDFE cases, Revenue Department Bangalore**

DIPR/CP/742/Zen/2026-27

## ಚಿಗಟೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: dssavangere@gmail.com

ಸಂ. ಚಿಜಿಆ/ಜೆಎನ್‌ಎಲ್(3)/08/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.05.2026

**ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ''ನಾನ್ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್'' ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ''ಡಿ'' ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳು, ಟ್ರಾಮಾಕೇರ್ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಅರೆ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ತಾಯಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ವೈದ್ಯೇತರ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

| ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. | ವಿವರ | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ | CGH/GNL(3)/08/2026-27 Dated: 16-05-2026 | CGH/GNL(3)/09/2026-27 Dated: 16-05-2026 | CGH/GNL(3)/10/2026-27 Dated: 16-05-2026 |
| 2. | ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಇಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ | 7.43 ಕೋಟಿಗಳು | 59 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು | 75 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು |
| 3. | ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಡೆಂಡರ್‌ಅನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ | ದಿ: 16–05–2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ, ದಿ:16.06.2026 ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. | ದಿ: 16–05–2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ, ದಿ: 02.06.2026 ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. | ದಿ: 16–05–2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ, ದಿ: 02.06.2026 ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. |
| 4. | ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ | ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30–05–2026 | ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25–05–2026 | ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25–05–2026 |
| 5. | ಪೂರ್ವ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ | ದಿ: 04–06–2026 | ದಿ: 27–05–2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ | ದಿ: 27–05–2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ |
| 6. | ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ | ದಿ: 18–06–2026 | ದಿ: 04–06–2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ | ದಿ: 04–06–2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ |
| 7. | ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ @5% | 37.15 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು | 2.95 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು | 3.75 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು |

DIPR/DVG/DISHA/117/2026-27

ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು/ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು,
ಚಿಗಟೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

Government of Karnataka

## Raichur Institute Of Medical Sciences, Raichur
(Govt. Autonomous Institution)

Hydrabad Road, Raichur -584102Phone /Fax-08532-238488/89
Web. www. rims-raichur.comEmail /inforimsraichur@gmail.com

No. RIMS/SUP/TEND/2026-27/ Dated:19.05.2026

**E-TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for Supply of Equipments to Dept. of OBG, RIMS Raichur under two cover bid system through E-Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka.

| Sl. No | Tender details | Tender Number | Approx.cost (in Lakhs) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Supply of Equipments to Dept. of OBG, RIMS Teaching Hospital, Raichur | RIMS/SUP/TEND/EQP/01/2026-27 DME/2026-27/IND2340 | 150.14 |
| 2 | Supply of Equipments to Dept. of OBG, RIMS Teaching Hospital, Raichur | RIMS/SUP/TEND/EQP/02/2026-27 DME/2026-27/IND2341 | 42.00 |

1) Tender document may be download from E-procurement portal of the Govt. of Karnataka from 20.05.2026 2) Tender must be submitted online through E-procurement portal on or before 03.06.2026 upto 5.00 PM 3) Technical bid will be opened on 05.06.2026 at 11.30 AM

Further information may be obtained from above office and from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

DIP/RCR/76/KSMC&A/78/2025-26 **Sd/- Director, Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences Raichur**

## BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No.DGM-3/BSWML/TEND/04/2026-27 Date: 19.05.2026

**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)**
**(Only Through GOK KPP Portal only)**

The Tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The Bidder shall submit the bid through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

| SL. NO | Name of the Work | Estimated amount Rs.in lakhs | EMD (in Rupees) | Stipulated Period of Service Contract |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Inert Landfill Area Protection and Nuisance Reduction Works in and around Hullahalli Inert Landfill Site in Bengaluru South Constituency, including enzyme spraying, safety measures and allied basic infrastructure works. | 1600.17 | Rs. 1.00 lakh through e-payment under the following i.e. online /RTGS/ NEFT/ OTC and the balance Rs.15,00,170/- by Bank Gurantee/FDR issued by Nationalised/Scheduled Bank | 09 Months |

**Calendar of Events: (1)** Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **25.05.2026 upto 15.00 Hrs.** in KPP Portal. (2) Pre bid meeting: **25.05.2026 at 15.00 Hrs** at the office of CE & CGM-2 (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore (3) Last date for submission of the bids **29.05.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs** (4) Date of opening of Technical bid on: **30.05.2026 at 16.30 Hrs** (5) Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.

**NOTE:**
1. Aspiring Bidders/Contractors who have not registered in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal should the website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** register before participating through the website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**
2. Any Addendum/Corrigendum shall be published in the KPP Portal only.

DIPR/CP/755/SHIRDI SAI/2026-27 **Sd/- Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML.**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

## ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08232–224195 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್:eepredmandya@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಇ:ಪಂರಾಇಂವಿ:ಮಂಡ್ಯ:ಸಇಂ–ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ:2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.05.2026

**ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 02/2026–27**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರುರವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ, ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯರವರಿಂದ ನಾಗಮಂಗಲ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭಾಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ **2025–26**ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ **4515–00–102–1–03–386** ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ನಾಗಮಂಗಲ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಇಡಲಾದ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.403.07ಲಕ್ಷ** ಮೊತ್ತದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಐವಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, KPP Portal** ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:06.06.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅಥವಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ಮಾಕಾಸಂಪಾ/ಮಂಡ್ಯ/660 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:141/2026–27

## BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele), 16th floor, Public utility building, MG road, Bangalore-560001

No.BCCC/EE/ELE/PR/57/2026-27 Date : 20.05.2026

**CORRIGENDUM**

**(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)**

**Sub:** Corrigendum pertaining to change in Tender calendar of events.
**Ref:** 1. Tender notification No: BCCC/EE/ELE/TEND/01/2026-27 Dt:12-05-2026.

With reference to this office tender notification No: BCCC/EE/ELE/TEND/01/2026-27 Dt: 12-05-2026, the calendar of events for the tender process has been modified as follows due to technical reasons. All other conditions remain unchanged.

| Sl. No. | Modified Date |
|---|---|
| 1. | Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal from: **25.05.2026 by 16.30 hrs.** |
| 2. | Last date for submitting clarification if any: **29.05.2026 by 16.00 hrs.** |
| 3. | Date & time of Pre-bid meeting: **30.05.2026 at 11.30 AM** at Office of Executive Engineer(Ele), 16th floor, PUB, MG Road, Bengaluru-560075. |
| 4. | Last date and time for submission of Tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP): **10.06.2026 by 15.00 hrs.** |
| 5. | Date & time of opening of Tenders Technical Bid **11.06.2026 at 16.00 hrs.** |
| 6. | Date & time of opening of Tenders: Commercial Bid (if possible) **15.06.2026.** |

**Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele), BCCC**

# Here's why the Bengali 'bhadralok' deserted Didi

**Once Mamata Banerjee's strongest urban constituency, Bengal's bhadralok were driven up the wall by corruption, job scams, civic decay and the handling of the RG Kar rape and murder, write Dwaipayan Ghosh & Dipawali Mitra**

During the recent Bengal polls, you often heard the term 'bhadralok'. A lot apparently depended on how this particular class of people would vote. Bhadralok literally means gentlefolk or respectable people, a category of Bengalis that emerged in the 19th century, particularly in Calcutta, as a new English-educated Hindu middle class began to take shape. Drawn largely from the upper caste, the bhadralok dominated British administrative jobs, land ownership, and intellectual-cultural production. The British left long back, Calcutta lost its heft and sheen, but the term bhadralok endured.

And the polls put the spotlight back on this class. Why? Because — or so the theory went — the so-called bhadralok might intensely dislike Mamata Banerjee and her party — Trinamool Congress — but would still stand by her to keep a party like the BJP from assuming office in Bengal.

What became clear on May 4 was that this class had quietly rebelled, because the magnitude of BJP's victory would not have been possible had the bhadralok not had second thoughts about keeping Didi in office.

So, what changed? The reasons run deep: institutional fatigue, corruption and extortion rackets, civic decay, and a sense of moral rupture after the RG Kar Medical College rape and murder case.

### Senior Ministers Tumble

The scale of the collapse was most evident in the defeat of several senior ministers who were considered the architects of the party's urban machinery. Sashi Panja, the state minister for women and child development, suffered a shock defeat in the Shyampukur constituency. Similarly, Aroop Biswas, the influential power minister and a key organiser in south Kolkata, lost his seat in Tollygunge to actor Papia Adhikary.

The administrative leadership of the city also faced a public trial. Atin Ghosh, the deputy mayor of Kolkata and a prominent face during the city's health crises, lost from the Belgachia-Cossipore segment; Debasish Kumar, a veteran politician and the mayor-in-council (MMIC), lost from Rashbehari.

Maidul Islam, political science professor at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata, feels this election reflects a mix of middle-class resentment and subaltern assertion, creating a 'populist configuration' where the BJP gained votes from across different classes.

"The charges of corruption and extortion rackets, along with anti-incumbency stemming from the past 15 years, made the Trinamool Congress vulnerable in this election. The complacency and arrogance within the party, from its brass to the local level, did not go down well with a large section of voters," said Islam. He feels Trinamool made the same mistake the Left made towards the end by becoming "governance-centric", where the distinction between party and govt vanished.

### Local Strongmen In Control

In virtually every locality, residents complained of the rise of local strongmen who began controlling daily life — from construction approvals to civic maintenance — with impunity. A Tollygunge resident recounted how local goons "operated like small govts". "You can't build a wall, run a business, or even get sand or cement without paying a 'cut'. Everyone knows who protects them," he claimed.

Residents of Kalighat and Bhowanipore, some of them hardcore Trinamool loyalists, pointed out that the long convoys of Abhishek Banerjee, sometimes stretching to over a dozen vehicles — had become a "metaphor for arrogance". "His movements paralysed traffic and inflated security restrictions. It was not leadership anymore. It felt like a display of power," said a teacher from Kalighat. Sharmista Saha, a school teacher from Gariahat, said that sports minister Aroop Biswas messing up the Lionel Messi event at Salt Lake stadium simply showed that you can get away with anything if you are a Trinamool honcho.

### RG Kar, Job Scams...

The RG Kar movement united not just doctors, but the entire city's middle class — a solidarity not seen since the Singur-Nandigram agitations that once catapulted Banerjee to office.

If the 2024 RG Kar incident was the emotional flashpoint, recruitment scams in school service commission (SSC) and teachers' eligibility test (TET) remained a deeper wound among the average Bengali middle class person, with job aspirants accusing recruitment panels of corruption and political favouritism while court cases exposed evidence of bribe networks running deep within the system.

Jadavpur University electrical engineering associate professor Arindam Sil said, "For the average Bengali middle class, govt jobs stand for aspiration and are considered to be the last stable ladder in a stagnant economy. But it was the middle class who was most affected due to the job scams and corruption. The old govt and its machinery, instead of providing solutions at the time of trouble, spent public money to cover up institutional corruption and defend one case after another. The middle class did not take this well. The legal setbacks faced by the previous govt on issues about dearness allowance, teacher eligibility test, school service commission and governance disputes had also significantly dented its image among voters, especially govt employees. The mandate is clear — that people voted against TMC and not pro-BJP. If corruption is normalised by any govt, the people will vote them out."

Political analyst Udayan Banerjee feels the recruitment scams and RG Kar incident acted as force multipliers and strengthened the anti-incumbency sentiment. "BJP's strategy to field the (RG Kar) victim's mother as a candidate was a significant move and resonated with people across the state. It tapped into the people's inherent anger and acted as a catalyst."

Communications expert Saswati Kundu said, "The SSC scam was the final betrayal. It told educated youth that even the path they believed was based on hard work had been auctioned off." IIT Guwahati PhD student Aniket Banerjee said, "RG Kar wasn't just about one horrific incident — it was about what it revealed. The belief that there's no accountability anymore hits people hard."

### Wobbly Public Transport

For the urban middle class, frustration about public commute became visible in everyday life. Public transport in Kolkata has become unreliable as private buses vanish. Informal fare hikes went unchecked, and commuters repeatedly pointed to the stalled Metro Railway projects as a glaring symbol of bureaucratic paralysis.

A Rashbehari commuter said in exasperation, "No one takes responsibility. Metro lines at Chingrighata get stalled for years, taxis overcharge, buses disappear — and yet there's always one or another rally blocking roads."

For a party built on the image of *poriborton* (change), the reversal is stark. Fifteen years ago, Banerjee rode the resentment of this constituency to dislodge the Left after 34 years in office.

Lawyer Samantak Sen, a resident of Rashbehari, said: "Anti-incumbency, after all, is almost a law of nature: what rises must eventually face decline. It's irritating when nothing is done to address problems despite being pointed out. You cannot brush everything under the carpet using dole politics." A Tollygunge resident summed it up: "Our votes were silent protests. We didn't shout in rallies; we just turned up at the booth."

> "The RG Kar incident had a profound impact on the urban areas. The Trinamool Congress thought the issue was over, but one must remember that whenever it is a big phenomenon before an election, the vote goes against the incumbent. People across class and gender not only connected with the RG Kar victim and demanded justice but also vented their anger against corruption in health and education sectors and extortion rackets"
>
> — **Maidul Islam**, POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR

> "The bhadralok were not reacting just to one event; they were voting against years of erosion in public ethics. The govt cites fiscal constraints, yet spends big on populist announcements while their (govt employees') own arrears remain uncleared. The middle class that built Trinamool's urban legitimacy is now building its opposition. It is not yet an endorsement of BJP — it's a demand for accountability"
>
> — **Sayoni Chowdhury Patra**, POLITICAL COMMENTATOR

**APATHY, CORRUPTION, DISTRESS:** If the RG Kar rape-and-murder jolted the common citizen into hitting the streets over law and order lapses, the botched Lionel Messi event further fuelled anger against TMC ministers like Aroop Biswas (on Messi's left), who lost his seat in the 2026 polls. On the other hand, the shortage of public buses added to a sense of urban distress

## TIMES NATION

# Sweet melody in Italy triggers a bitter political war at home

**Govt Defends PM's Outreach, Rivals Question Priorities**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The portmanteau wrote itself. Now, it has a ring to it that could launch a thousand toffee ads. PM Narendra Modi landed in Italy early Wednesday, greeted his counterpart Georgia Meloni and, much to the delight of the political paparazzi, handed her a packet of 'Melody'. Curiously, the name of the Parle toffee rhymed with what the internet has been calling the bonhomie between the two premiers for three years.

The 12-second video of the 'chocolaty' exchange between Modi and Meloni crossed 10 crore views within hours.

"PM Modi brought us a gift — a very, very good toffee: Melody," Meloni said as Modi raised the packet before both broke into a hearty, knowing laugh. "Thank you for the gift," she later posted on X.

The 'Melodi' tag has been a recurring fixture of online trends whenever the two have met. It got something close to an official endorsement when Meloni used it as a hashtag on a selfie with Modi, posted during the COP28 meeting in the UAE in December 2023.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni during a visit to the Colosseum, in Rome on Tuesday

The PM's toffee diplomacy in Rome had the opposition back home in a flap. Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi said the PM was "busy handing out candies in Italy" while "an economic storm is raging over the country".

"Farmers, youth, women labourers and small traders are all in tears — the PM is laughing and making reels, while the BJP folks are clapping along. This isn't leadership, it's a farce," he said.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, too, took a swipe at the PM. "Modiji wants the public to enjoy the 'melody' of speeches while surviving the 'misery' of his govt's loot!" he said, citing domestic LPG prices that he said had spiked 121%. "Every aspect of the economy is suffering, but Modiji continues his PR, lecturing citizens to shoulder the burden of this grave economic storm," Kharge alleged.

Union commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal had his own take on the toffee discourse, albeit without referring to either Melody the sweet or Melodi the pair. "India's TOFFEE TALE would surely be melody to the ears! Exports have grown nearly 166% since 2013-14," he wrote on X.

Later, responding to Rahul's criticism of Modi's choice of gift for the Italian PM, Goyal wondered why he had so much "hate" for India and Indian products.

# PM: Problems should be resolved through dialogue

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According to the joint statement, the roadmap will promote technological cooperation, co-production and co-development projects, including for helicopters, naval platforms, marine armament and electronic warfare. "They also recognised the importance of protecting critical infrastructures and their related supply chains through the strengthening of industrial resilience," it said, adding that the leaders agreed to launch a maritime security dialogue and reaffirmed their commitment to a free, open, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

Underlining India's position on terrorism, Modi said both countries agreed terrorism posed a serious challenge to humanity and their joint initiative against terror-financing had set an important example for the entire world. "India and Italy have sent a clear message that responsible democracies not only condemn terrorism but also take concrete steps to disrupt its financial networks," he said, as the joint statement reiterated the shared commitment to work together at the UN, FATF and other multilateral platforms against terrorism.

The leaders expressed concern over the situation in Ukraine and West Asia, with Modi reiterating India's position that all problems should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. They also called for freedom of navigation and resumption of global flows through the Strait of Hormuz, said the joint statement.

The Indian PM described technology and innovation as the engines of the India-Italy partnership. "There is immense potential for our cooperation in areas like AI, quantum, space and civil nuclear energy. We are working on India-Italy Innovation Centre to connect startups, research centres and industries of both the countries," he said.

## 12-nation military exercise starts in Meghalaya

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**New Delhi:** Multilateral military exercise PRAGATI 2026 involving personnel from 12 friendly countries started at Meghalaya's Umroi Military Station on Wednesday. The contingents of Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Vietnam were accorded a traditional welcome by Indian Army.

PRAGATI — Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region — exercise provides a common platform for participating armies to engage in professional exchange, learn from one another's experiences and build closer military-to-military ties.

The two-week exercise will focus on counter-terror operations in semi-mountainous and jungle terrain.

## Car hits 2 Jain sadhvis, one dead

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bhopal:** A Jain sadhvi (ascetic) was killed and two wounded after a speeding car allegedly mowed them down while they were walking in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa early Wednesday. The vehicle was intercepted near Jabalpur after a 270km chase, police said.

According to police, the sadhvis, all in their 40s, were travelling on foot as part of a religious journey. They were accompanied by three local followers who alerted police and helped identify the fleeing vehicle.

One of the sadhvis, Shruti Mati Mata, a native of Sagar district, died on the spot due to severe injuries. She was travelling to Rewa from Satna on a religious sojourn. The injured were identified as Upsamiti Mata, a resident of Tamil Nadu, and Arika Mata from Jabalpur. They were rushed to hospital with serious injuries, where one of them was put on ventilator support.

# *MP's arid dist Dindori makes splash in water drive*

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**Jabalpur:** Fragile saplings, supported by bamboo stakes and drip-fed through inverted plastic bottles, dot barren fields across Singpur village's sun-baked terrain in tribal-majority Dindori district of Madhya Pradesh. Nearby, a newly excavated retention pond with stone-pitched banks stands ready to capture and store seasonal runoff.

About 470km east of Bhopal, the district has surged to second place nationally and first in MP under Jal Sanchay Bhagidari — a grassroots water conservation campaign — helping transform one of the state's poorest and driest regions into a model of community-led revival. At the centre of Singpur, new water infrastructure blends into everyday rural life. A brightly painted concrete trough serves as a watering point for cattle and buffalo, while a woman draws water from a nearby hand pump under an ageing banyan tree as a young herdsman watches over livestock.

A water structure built in Dindori

The scene is stark but purposeful — a countryside trying to reclaim its land and water.

"There's water scarcity in our village, so we have built soak pits to divert rainwater from rooftops as well as wastewater from bathrooms. This will help improve groundwater recharge and reduce water shortage," said villager Khemkaran Vishwakarma.

Resource-starved and vulnerable to erratic monsoons, Dindori tapped into tribal traditions rooted in coexistence with forests, streams and soil moisture. What began as a govt initiative soon grew into a people's movement powered by community participation.

District administration data shows nearly 2.98 lakh water conservation structures were built under the campaign — including more than 41,000 recharge pits, close to 10,000 farm ponds and over 6,000 check dams — along with rooftop rainwater harvesting systems, dugwell recharge units and gully plugs across villages. The aim was simple: trap every possible drop before it disappeared into cracked earth.

"Earlier, my household wastewater used to spill outside, creating filth and unhygienic conditions. Now, with support from govt, a soak pit has been constructed. I channel all kitchen and household wastewater into it. This has helped in two ways — there is no stagnant dirty water outside the house anymore, and groundwater recharge has improved," said villager Gomti Bai.

Awareness drives spread through jal chaupals, kalash rallies and street plays. Slogans appeared across walls and village squares: "Jal hai to kal hai, jal bachayenge, bhavishya bachayenge (If there is water, there is a tomorrow. Save water, secure future)" and "Har boond keemti hai, Dindori ki jal kranti hai (Every drop is precious, this is Dindori's water revolution)".

As heatwaves intensify across central India and reservoirs continue to shrink, Dindori offers a different picture — communities learning that in a warming world, every saved drop matters.

# Stray dog rules must ensure accountability: Apex court

▶ Continued from page 1

In particular, whether such animal welfare organisations, associations, or individuals, who claim to care for or exercise control over stray dogs in a given locality, would be willing to accept tortious liability in respect of any injury, harm or damage caused by such dogs to members of the public," the bench said.

It was contended before the bench that National Academy of Legal Studies and Research, University of Law (Nalsar), Hyderabad, has institutionalised humane treatment of stray dogs in its campus by creating an Animal Law Centre. It was also submitted that similar social experiments could be undertaken in other educational institutions, which would act in furtherance of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules. The centre said such exercise would inculcate empathy among students and inspire them to be kind to the animals.

Allowing the centre's plea to carry on with its work on an experimental basis, the bench directed that the Animal Law Centre furnish an undertaking to Nalsar vice-chancellor that, in the event of any incident of stray dog bite occurring within the campus, the centre shall be liable to face tortious liability for the injury caused to the individual(s) concerned.

"This court is of the considered opinion that any framework concerning the management and protection of stray dogs must necessarily be accompanied by clearly defined principles of accountability. The assertion of rights or interests in favour of such animals cannot operate in isolation, divorced from the corresponding responsibility to safeguard human life and safety," the bench said. "Failure to comply would entail suitable action against the Head of the Institution concerned," it said.

**A thought for today**

*All grown-ups were once children... but only few of them remember it*

**ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY, The Little Prince**

# Let Our Teens Be

*Nepal's done well to actively consider decriminalising teenage sexuality. India must do the same*

A shoutout to Nepal's law minister. Her first decision, on assuming office on April 26, was to review their rape law that criminalises teen sexual relations. Her task force's recommendation: include a close-in-age exemption, as is done across liberal societies. This, hopefully, will soon be legislated. There is little as harmful to growing minds and bodies as criminalising teen sexuality, exploration and sexual relations. Nepal's age of consent, as in India, is 18. In India, a close-in-age exemption was, unjustifiably, not included when Pocso was legislated, despite repeated cautions – from policy wonks, legal experts, health & behavioural specialists and so on. Upshot: India too sends teens in consensual sexual relations – if discovered by ever-disapproving adults – to jail. The girl has no legal say, at all. And her close-in-age friend is pushed into the criminal justice system, his future in tatters. Fallout is traumatic, ruinous, and inflicts lifelong damage. One analysis found that 80% of "romantic" cases under Pocso "were filed by parents or relatives *after* a girl eloped or became pregnant."

India's SC and several HCs – Allahabad, Madras, Delhi – have repeatedly observed, while hearing cases of criminalised teen sex, that Pocso has resulted in victimising the very kids law aims to protect. Of course, there's always the upholder of toxic patriarchy, like the Calcutta HC judge who found it his remit to suggest "teen girls should control their urges". A tongue-lashing from SC doesn't take away the fact that patriarchal attitudes – in courts, policy corridors and Parliament – are anything but rare, ever taking new shape and form. India's messy reality, additionally, is that while Pocso criminalises sex below age 18, sex with an underage wife is perfectly legal. Child marriage is illegal, but underage sex law doesn't apply. The law is confused, because lawmakers are confused. Because society, and tragically, the law, views growing teens not as individuals with autonomy, but in terms of parents' ownership & control, investment & returns (disguised as child's 'future'), and as keepers of family 'honour'.

India must follow Nepal's example – renew the move to incorporate age-gap leniencies in law. Free India's teenagers from every passing elder who magically transforms into an advisory body. Let's let teenagers be.

# Who You Calling Old?

*People over 60 are increasingly fitter, wealthier & full of zest for life. The trend will grow stronger*

At 82, Billie Jean King, yes, she of the 39 Grand Slam titles, has got herself a new one: College graduate. Why is this making headlines? Because it rudely interrupts retirement mythology, which in US remains coloured by the golf-grandchildren-Florida idea. Or escape, from cold, from work, from obligation. The Indian version features quiet demotion to the back bedroom of the eldest son's home, cushioned by a second one in Goa or the hills. But as some readers would know first-hand, these clichés are ageing faster than people. Well-off professionals Mumbai to Bengaluru have a very different biological curve than their parents did. If they're going to have a long, healthy, wealthy later life, why shouldn't it be purposeful?

Director of the MIT AgeLab, Joseph Coughlin, underlines that a) by 2047 there will be more people in the world over 60, with more money and education than any other time in history, than children under 15, and b) the longevity economy is already enormous enough to be the third largest after US and China. This means the old story of needy older people needs to be rewritten. By businesses, employers, govts. Of course, extending working life by *choice* is a luxury of the higher-income, higher-education, and better-health workers. With only 12% of India's workforce covered by a formal pension scheme, the story remains pre-industrial for most of the rest. As in, for much of human history, retirement simply didn't exist, and old age was just the final, harder chapter of working life.

But the ones who *can* choose, are perhaps the most un-herd-like generation ever. As Lynda Gratton and Andrew Scott say in their influential book, *The 100-Year Life*, the longer your life, the more your identity reflects what you craft, rather than a reactive response to where you began. There will be a variety of careers. And while savings will provide the baseline of security, new skills and sustained relationships will count for a lot too. Indeed, research has shown that the single strongest predictor of happiness in later life is the quality of your close relationships. A 100-year-old human is still a human.

# New sutra's other putra

*How many words are nestled in 'austerity'?*

**Bachi Karkaria**

'Austerity' is the new MD: *Mantri* Darling. This now-WOW is not displacing earlier official Word Of Week like perennial *vikas* or poll-*bol* '*poriborton*'. It has only extended them. In post-Hormuz world, progress can continue only through a change in wasteful ways, no? Here's my contribution to patriotic conservation. I'm going to obey PM-ji's orders literally to the letter. Instead of squandering avoidable words, this column will try to use as many as can be formed with the alphabetical letters in 'austerity'. My verbal economy follows the ego-unfriendly 3Rs: Reuse, Reduce, Recycle. Sparing you the *atmanirbhar* of self-spotting, I've italicised these 'kangaroo' words.

A *suite* of measures was announced to make *sure* that we keep our 2030 tryst with 7.3 trillion GDP. *True,* they aren't *easy,* but aren't we well *suit*-ed not to *stray* from this yogic *sutra*'s *set* aims? Unlike Wasteful West found with its pants down in every *era* of belt-tightening, Evolved *East* does not get shirty or weep copious *tears,* let alone *saute* those who've ordered curbs. Here, sacrifice is not some *airy* notion/*trite* cliche. It does not *raise* our *ire*, *tire* us, get us into a *state* or leave us all at *sea*. We *rate* high on frugal *traits*. Didn't they *see* us through the socialist *years*?

**erratica**

*Trust* me, we won't be a backside-*sitter* or *stare* in disbelief when asked to give up our gas-guzzling SUV or LPG-consuming puris. Or not buy more gold for sundry *rites*. Not just an *artiste*, we *are* THE *artist* of jugaad. We can cleverly rejig whatever Trump, Iran and that damned *strait* throw at us.

Letting their fancy cars *rust*, star ministers already travel on and in a convoy of bikes. Who knows, they might actually laugh off the *satire* this show provokes, not *treat* it like treason – or troll-*tar* the 'anti-national' offender.

*Yes, sir*, now that the alarm has rung, we will *stir* from non-AC beds, *arise* and *rise* like *yeast* to bake our patriotic bread.

***

**Alec Smart said: "With the mandated restraint, does the forex holiday become a 'guilt trip'?"**

# 'Why Tata Sons should not be listed'

*Former Tata Sons vice chairman argues an IPO can undermine the company's special role in the group, and may not unlock much value*

**NA Soonawala**

Most readers encountering this issue yet again may feel fatigued by the continuing debate on whether Tata Sons should be listed. However, there are certain aspects that merit closer attention. Tata Sons Private Limited, labelled as a non-banking finance company (NBFC) and a core investment company (CIC), essentially functions as principal investment holding company of Tata Group. Over the years, it has consistently complied with all regulatory directives issued by RBI, adapting its structure whenever required.

When it was restricted from accessing bank funding, Tata Sons repaid all such borrowings and relied only on permitted non-banking sources. Subsequently, when maintaining a near debt-free profile became necessary to avoid listing, it repaid an amount of ₹20,000cr from internal resources, and prematurely redeemed preference shares. Similarly, when CIC rules were tightened to prohibit investments outside group companies, Tata Sons divested its relatively small non-Tata Group holdings. These responses reflect disciplined compliance without compromising its nature as a private holding company.

The latest requirement – compelling listing primarily because of asset size exceeding ₹1L cr – raises concerns. When growth is rightly the prevailing mantra in our country, why compel and almost punish for growing to a certain size, and force a company to change its basic structure established over 100 years ago by the great founder of this House, nursed, built and financed by his successors, and which always complies with applicable laws and regulations?

A strange new obstacle stems from a retrospective interpretation of transactions from 1995, where investments by certain group companies are now alleged to involve "public funds", effectively being treated as borrowings of Tata Sons today. It is difficult to establish the nature of such funds after three decades, and even more so to justify their present-day treatment in this manner.

More importantly, implications of listing go beyond regulatory compliance, and strike at the heart of Tata Sons' role within the group. Historically, Tata Sons has not merely been a holding company but a promoter and custodian of group values. Examples include Sir Dorabji Tata pledging personal assets to save Tata Steel, to more recent actions, such as voluntarily settling liabilities of Tata Finance, which was close to default, by the then chairman Ratan Tata, who prevailed on Tata Sons board to honour obligations to Docomo, the partner in Tata Teleservices. These decisions were guided by reputation, responsibility, and long-term trust, rather than strict commercial logic.

A publicly listed Tata Sons would inevitably be accountable to institutional and foreign shareholders, whose primary focus would be financial returns. It is doubtful whether such investors would accept substantial deployment of capital to support or rescue group companies in distress. This tension could fundamentally alter Tata Sons' traditional role and weaken the group's internal support system. The above examples alone (and there have been other smaller ones) have saved lending banks from writing off tens of thousands of crores as NPAs. Tata Sons was able to take actions that new institutional and private investors in an IPO may hesitate to allow, from a purely commercial point of view.

Timing is another critical factor. The group currently faces large financial commitments from recently formed subsidiary companies, including Air India, investments in long gestation projects, and losses in newer ventures. The current situation in the case of Air India would be an acid test. All these would need to be disclosed fully in an IPO prospectus. Consolidated financial statements – reflecting subsidiary losses and borrowings – may not present an especially attractive picture to sophisticated investors, pointing to wrong timing for an IPO at the present time. Thus, even if listing were necessary, postponement may be prudent until these issues are addressed.

Equally important is the ownership structure and philosophy of Tata Sons. Around 66% is held by Tata Trusts, reflecting the founders' vision of combining enterprise with philanthropy. Dividends from operating companies flow indirectly into charitable initiatives, reinforcing a long-standing commitment to social purpose. Listing would, therefore, introduce pressures on distribution and retention of funds that could dilute this unique model. Consequently, taking a long-term view of investing in greenfield and other ventures may become questionable.

The argument of improving liquidity for minority shareholders appears limited in scope. Most such shareholders – primarily Tata Group companies – have not advocated listing and have, in fact, benefitted significantly from dividends and appreciation over time. The principal demand for liquidity comes from Shapoorji Pallonji Group, whose position is understandable, but cannot alone justify a decision with such far-reaching consequences.

Moreover, shares in Tata Sons are not entirely illiquid; they can be transferred under established procedures, but at a discount to net asset value (NAV), as elaborated in the next para. Let it be said that the SP group's investments in Tata Sons are minuscule compared to the dividends received and the enormous increase in value of Tata Sons shares over the years, which is well-documented.

Other listed Indian group investment holding companies also provide perspective. Such companies trade at discounts of 20% to 50% to NAV, as investors would prefer direct exposure to underlying operating companies. There is little reason to assume Tata Sons shares would be treated differently by the stock market, raising doubts about the effectiveness of listing for unlocking value. Therefore, it appears that shares of a holding company – listed or unlisted – would always attract a substantial discount.

Claims that listing would improve governance are equally debatable. Many governance failures have occurred even in listed entities, suggesting that listing alone is no guarantee of better oversight. Strengthening internal controls and regulatory supervision may be more effective than altering ownership structure.

It is also noteworthy that both Tata Trusts and Tata Sons have opposed listing, and even sought exemption. When both the principal owners and the company itself are aligned against such a move, their position deserves due consideration. Furthermore, similar pressure is not seen to be applied to other large group holding companies, raising questions about consistency.

In conclusion, the proposed listing of Tata Sons risks undermining a structure that has evolved over more than 100 years, blending commercial success with social purpose and long-term stewardship. Such a transformation may irreversibly alter its character. It is hoped that regulators will weigh these considerations carefully, and preserve a model that has stood the test of time. For those who may disagree, this perspective is offered respectfully, without intent for debate, but out of deep concern for the future of an institution to which the author has devoted a lifetime.

# The Two Test Neat Solution To The NEET Mess

**Split medical exam in two parts, like JEE. NTA conducts the first nationwide screening. Those who qualify, take a second test in their home state. Each state will set their own questions. Paper-leakers will be outplayed**

**Varna Sri Raman**

Medical aspirants will write NEET-UG again on June 21, as CBI investigates the leak of the NEET question paper, 42 hours before the May 3 exam, which was cancelled on May 12. This was, per media reports, the 89th public exam test paper leaked, or suspected to have been leaked in the last decade. For each, a case was filed and/or re-tests undertaken.

Around 120 of 180 questions, in the leaked paper that Rajasthan police recovered this year, matched the actual exam. None of what has followed – CBI probe, arrests of 'masterminds', MOs – is unfamiliar. But the administrative explanation has worn thin. Tighter security and better protocols have been govt's answer through every cycle. The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, in force since June 2024, has produced no convictions.

Looked at as a labour market problem, the picture changes. The arithmetic of the chase tells you why. India admits about 1.29L students to MBBS programmes each year – about 22L young Indians compete for those seats. The 21L who do not get one, return for another attempt, and then again. A median aspirant invests roughly two years into a single afternoon test. At a private-sector entry wage of ₹15k a month, foregone earnings of failed aspirants come to about ₹60k cr a year. Add coaching fees of around ₹1L per student annually, and the country has burned over ₹7L cr on this exam since 2014. That exceeds India's cumulative central health budget over the same period and NREGA's total outlay since 2006.

The leak market has a documented price. The Bihar Economic Offences Unit priced a NEET seat in 2024 at ₹30L-₹50L. In Hazaribagh that year, one family sold a buffalo and two katha of land to make the first installment. Patna police recovered phones with call records of mothers asking for time to arrange money – by withdrawing savings for a daughter's marriage.

These are families of small farmers and govt school-teachers, pushing one child across a threshold they never crossed, because a govt MBBS seat unlocks a salary roughly six times the private-sector equivalent for comparable work. This is the development economics of the leak.

A test is supposed to sort candidates by ability. When the credential can be bought, it sorts on family wealth. The 22L aspirants chasing 1.29L seats are in what economists call an aspiration trap. The family has paid too much to walk away. The arithmetic doesn't allow them to succeed.

This cycle has a body count – 29 teens died by suicide in Kota in 2023, the highest annual count on record, 17 in 2024. S Anitha, a Dalit student from Ariyalur with 1,176 out of 1,200 in her Class 12 boards, took her own life in Tamil Nadu in 2017, when her board marks no longer counted for medical admission. The cycle has burnt money, and cost lives families had given everything to save.

Given NTA's record in conducting 14 exams by 2024, a parliamentary standing committee in its review of autonomous higher education bodies, in Dec 2025, laid emphasis on pen-and-paper testing for NEET given "NTA's recent performance has not inspired much confidence."

GOI already runs a national exam that works on a different design. JEE is a two-stage test: JEE Main is the screening test, administered nationally by NTA. JEE Advanced is the second-stage examination, administered by one of the seven IITs on a rotating basis, with its own paper-setting committees, syllabus and operations. Roughly 2.5L of the Main cohort qualify for Advanced each year. The two-stage design splits the value of any single leak. A compromised Main does not compromise Advanced.

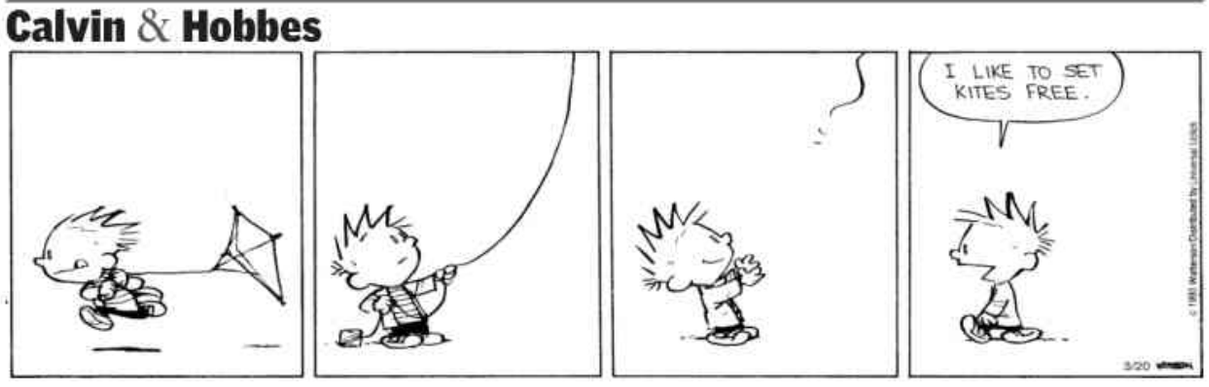
NEET could follow JEE's template. NTA conducts national screening. State medical universities or state-level testing bodies conduct the second stage, with their own paper-setting committees. Class 12 board marks carry weighted consideration, alongside the second-stage score. Such a design halves the leak value of any single paper. State govts, politically accountable for their public health workforce, regain the ability to admit students from schools and languages their hospitals will serve.

Tamil Nadu has argued something close to this for almost a decade. Justice AK Rajan's committee documented in 2021 that Tamil-medium representation, in the state's MBBS admissions, had collapsed from above 15% before NEET, to under 2%, while CBSE-stream representation rose from 0% to over 25%. TN's exemption-from-NEET Act, re-passed in 2022, was denied President's assent. In Nov 2025, TN filed an Article 131 suit in SC, saying NEET violates federalism.

The aspirant phase young Indians spend years in – between school and labour market – calls for a different fix, beyond anti-cheating laws or jammers. The deeper repair, of course, is public sector employment growing alongside the labour force and admissions returning to govts politically accountable for the services they staff. The 2027 NEET should run on the JEE template, with state-level second stages and weighted board marks. That has worked for IITs for more than a decade. It is overdue at medical colleges.

*The writer is an independent development economist*

**Calvin & Hobbes**




**Sacred***space*

*Not till your thoughts cease all their branching here and there, not till you abandon all thoughts of seeking for something, not till your mind is motionless as wood or stone, will you be on the right road to the Gate.*

**Huang Po**

# Brewing Mindfulness, One Cup At A Time

**Devendraraj Suthar**

Tea is commonly regarded as an everyday beverage, yet within the cultural history of Asian civilisations, its significance has extended far beyond taste or social habit. In countries such as China, Japan and India, tea has long been associated with states of contemplation, mindfulness, self-discipline and human communion. This association rests less on mystical assertion than on layers of cultural experience, philosophical tradition and psychological influence.

Contemporary research suggests that, under certain conditions, drinking tea may cultivate a sense of slowness, present-moment awareness, and mental steadiness. For this reason, many scholars and cultural theorists view tea not merely as a drink, but as an 'experiential practice' in which the body, mind and patterns of social interaction operate simultaneously.

The relationship between tea and contemplative consciousness is most clearly visible in the Zen Buddhist traditions of China and Japan. Buddhist monks in China consumed tea during prolonged meditation sessions to maintain alertness and concentration. Over time, this practice evolved in Japan into the Japanese tea ceremony, chanoyu. Tea masters such as Sen no Rikyu associated the ceremony with simplicity, discipline and attentiveness.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Within the Japanese tea tradition, every gesture was expected to be performed slowly and with deliberate awareness. This practice reflected a central principle of Zen philosophy: that even the most ordinary acts could become sites of complete presence and mental concentration. It is important, however, to clarify that tea itself was not regarded as a 'spiritual object'. Rather, it was understood as an activity capable of drawing the individual, however briefly, into the immediacy of the present moment.

Modern psychology and neuroscience have attempted to explain certain dimensions of this experience. Research on mindfulness has shown that slow and attentive activities may help reduce psychological stress and improve concentration. The mindfulness-based stress reduction framework developed by Jon Kabat-Zinn demonstrated that present-centred awareness can have measurable benefits for mental well-being. Although his research did not focus specifically on tea, several psychologists suggest that slow, sensory acts, such as drinking tea, may evoke experiences analogous to mindfulness practices.

In addition, scientific studies have found that L-theanine, an amino acid naturally present in tea, may influence brain activity patterns associated with a calm yet alert mental state. The intensity of these effects, however, varies according to the individual, the quantity consumed and the surrounding circumstances. Tea may support, rather than directly produce, feelings of calmness and attentiveness in certain individuals.

In the Indian context, the significance of tea has evolved primarily through social and conversational culture. Tea has long been a familiar presence in ashrams, satsangs, family gatherings and informal discussions. From a sociological perspective, tea creates what may be described as a 'slow social moment', a temporary space in which individuals can step away from pressures and formalities of daily life. Its significance lies largely in the state of mind with which it is approached.

*International Tea Day is observed on May 21*

# Rape accused garlanded, taken home in convoy after he gets bail

## Faces FIR For Rash Driving, Obstruction In Public Way

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The procession jammed the road for 30 minutes

**Ghaziabad:** A rape accused, who walked out to boisterous celebrations and went home from Dasna jail in a convoy earlier this week, now faces a fresh FIR after police took suo motu cognisance of videos circulating on social media, showing a group of men showering him with flowers and carrying him on their shoulders from the prison gates to the main road.

Sushil Prajapati (35), who is facing trial for drugging and sexually assaulting a 25-year-old LLB student, had not been acquitted but secured bail after eight months in prison. A complaint submitted by sub-inspector Pradeep Kumar on Tuesday said Prajapati and his associates blocked the road outside the jail for nearly 30 minutes, causing inconvenience to passersby, before driving recklessly in a convoy towards Muradnagar via Delhi-Meerut Expressway, covering nearly 12km, and endangering the public. The accused also burst crackers and beat drums outside Prajapati's home.

DCP (rural) Surendra Nath Tiwari said an FIR was registered under BNS sections 281 (rash driving) and 285 (obstruction in public way), and that teams had been formed to identify and act against those involved.

A senior police officer told TOI the celebration appeared to have been organised by a group of the accused's friends, and cops were probing how many cars were in the convoy, what route it took, and how long traffic was affected.

## Father kills girl for speaking to boyfriend, then buries her

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**Agra:** A 50-year-old man in Aligarh allegedly strangled his 19-year-old daughter for speaking to her boyfriend despite family opposition, tied her, in a semi-conscious condition, to his back, on his motorcycle to a nearby field and strangled her to death and buried her in a five-foot-deep pit before pretending the next morning that she was missing, police said on Wednesday.

The suspected 'honour' killing took place in Jarara under Khair police station limits. Police identified the accused as Puran Singh and the victim as his daughter Shivani, who had been in a relationship with a youth from the same village and had spoken to him over the phone for nearly a year. Police arrested the father after he confessed during questioning that he killed his daughter over her relationship with a neighbour.

## 19-year-old girl raped, filmed, blackmailed; dies by suicide

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**Gurgaon:** A 19-year-old girl died by suicide on Wednesday after being raped, filmed and blackmailed by some youths two days ago. She was raped in Nuh's Bichhor area around 1am, police said.

"Pressured by constant blackmailing, she drank pesticide," a complaint lodged by her father said, adding that she had narrated the ordeal to the family before taking the extreme step. "We just want justice for our daughter," said the father, who told police the accused are "notorious individuals".

She was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors told her father that she had consumed a poisonous substance, after which police were alerted.

"After recording the statements, we took our daughter to a govt hospital but she died on the way," the father, who is a farmer, said.

## Noida protest posts traced to SI, DCP driver: Activists to SC

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**Noida:** Lawyers representing two of the four activists arrested last month on charges of instigating violence during the industrial workers' protest have told Supreme Court that a screenshot of a burning car and a voice message to block a road were, in fact, posted on a WhatsApp group by a Noida police sub-inspector and a DCP's driver.

Filed in response to the state affidavit detailing the investigation into the April 13 protest, arson and vandalism and charges against the accused, the submission filed by counsels Manik Gupta and Puja Sharma identifies the two who made the posts as SI Beena, who is posted in Sector 142, and Anil Kumar.

It contends that the two "infiltrated" the 'Richa Global Noida' WhatsApp group to foment trouble.

"Richa Global Noida is a group consisting mainly of workers; the total number of participants is 1,024. The WhatsApp chats are available in the public domain," says the submission filed on behalf of Aditya Anand, an engineer, and Rupesh Roy, an auto driver and trade union activist, who have moved Supreme Court citing custodial torture. Anand was arrested on April 18 and Roy on April 11, two days before the violent protest.

# Health survey factsheets ready for a year but not made public

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Factsheets generated from the sixth National Family Health Survey completed in Dec 2024 have been ready for over a year, according to sources, but they are yet to be made public.

In Aug last year, there were media reports that they would be out in a month. According to those who were part of conducting the survey and preparing the factsheets, those for key indicators can be released only after the approval of the health ministry. There was no response from the health ministry to **TOI**'s queries on the reasons for the delay.

Though the preparations for NFHS-6 began in mid-2022, it was officially launched nationwide in Dec 2023. The survey was done in two phases over a year.

NFHS-5 was also conducted in two phases — Phase-I from June 17, 2019 to Jan 30, 2020 covering 17 states and five UTs, and Phase-II from 2 Jan, 2020 to 30 April, 2021 covering 11 states and three UTs. Despite being conducted during the Covid years, the Phase-I factsheets were out on Dec 12, 2020 (in less than 11 months) and the Phase-II factsheets on Nov 24, 2021, less than seven months after the survey.

The delay in the NFHS-6 factsheets being released is despite being, for the first time, carried out entirely using a digital platform through Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing, with built-in checks for real-time error detection and validation to improve data quality.

Questions in Parliament in Aug 2025 and Feb this year on the reasons behind the delay did not elicit any information. The answer to a question in Rajya Sabha on Feb 3, for instance, was: "The ministry ensures timely dissemination of NFHS data by conducting regular follow-ups with the nodal agency and regular meetings at higher levels to monitor progress and oversee intermediary steps."

NFHS-6 is expected to provide estimates of the levels of fertility, infant and child mortality, and other family welfare and health indicators by background characteristics at the national and district levels. This would provide important inputs for state-level policy making, programme design and resource allocation.

NFHS-6 dropped questions on anaemia and disability, but added 58 new ones, including 10 on Covid and its vaccinations, bringing the total number of questions to 1,068. Other new topics surveyed include mobility and migration of people, women's self-help groups, and digital and financial literacy of women, especially on whether they use mobile phones for financial transactions. The decision on which topics to include or drop is taken by NITI Aayog and the health ministry along with the NFHS technical advisory committee.

Unlike earlier rounds of NFHS, which were done through collaborative funding from foreign agencies, the entire exercise this time was fully funded by the health ministry. For the first time, all aspects of the NFHS-6 survey were coordinated solely by International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai.

**PAST TIMELINES**

| Survey | Conducted in | Factsheets released | Reports released |
|---|---|---|---|
| NFHS-4 phase 1 & II | Jan 2015 to Dec 2016 | 1st phase in Jan 2016, 2nd phase March 2017 | Nov 2017 to Jan 2018 |
| NFHS-5 phase 1 | June 2019 to Jan 2020 | Dec 2020 | Dec 2020 |
| NFHS-5 phase 2 | Jan 2020 to Apr 2021 | Nov 2021 | State reports Nov 2021, national report May 2022 |

## Bombay HC says wife not a 'deemed maid'

**Mumbai:** "Mere failure of wife to do chores such as cooking, cleaning does not automatically amount to cruelty as marriage is a partnership of equals and not a service contract and the wives are not 'deemed maids'," said Bombay HC, dismissing a husband's plea for divorce on grounds of cruelty, **reports Swati Deshpande**. A wife's refusal to perform daily chores does not qualify as mental cruelty, said Justices Bharti Dangre and Manjusha Deshpande in a May 8 judgment and set aside a 2010 Bandra family court decree of divorce and order denying her maintenance.

The HC said the family court's denial of maintenance relied on a solitary ad issued by the wife of a "art and craft" class; however, "there is no reliable material to establish" that such activity translated into a regular or sufficient source of independent income, the HC said. The husband, however, as a chartered accountant, possesses professional qualifications and earning capacity to maintain her, the HC reasoned and held her entitled to maintenance of Rs 10,000 per month and another Rs 10,000 per month towards her residential accommodation.

The wife, aged 31, in 2010, appealed against the family court orders of July 2010 by which her husband's 2004 plea for divorce was granted and her plea for maintenance, denied.

## 10k evacuated after landslide in Kedarnath

**Dehradun:** More than 10,000 pilgrims were stranded on the Kedarnath yatra route late Tuesday night after a landslide blocked the Sonprayag-Gaurikund highway near Munkatiya in Rudraprayag district amid continuous rainfall.

The landslide occurred around 9pm, obstructing the main route to Kedarnath and leaving thousands of pilgrims stranded on both ends in darkness and adverse weather conditions. Continuous debris rolling down and rain further complicated rescue efforts. SDRF, NDRF, police and district administration launched a joint rescue and evacuation operation which continued throughout the night. TNN

# After 26 yrs, 3 families get closure as lost Omni found in Bhakra canal

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The submerged Omni was found during search for another person

**Patiala:** For 26 monsoons, the Bhakra canal's water hid a grisly secret as three families of Ropar grappled with grief and hope. On Sunday, a mangled Maruti Omni, rusted and falling to pieces, was winched out of the depths, still holding a child's school uniform, luggage, personal belongings and a few bones — the remains of four missing persons.

Finally, there is closure for the families who never gave up the search that almost drove them to penury. The photos of Munni Lal, Tej Ram, Surjit Singh and Surjit's 8-year-old son Kalu that hung on the walls of their homes have now been garlanded. And their kin can say goodbye. They were returning from a wedding on Oct 17, 2000, in the Omni that Tej had bought only a month earlier. They never reached home. Their families in Kotla village (80km from Chandigarh) desperately looked for them. They hired divers to scour the canal, sold off land to keep the search alive, but in vain. The case went cold.

The breakthrough came when local diver Kamalpreet Saini plunged into the deadly currents to look for another missing person and spotted the heavily corroded van, 32ft deep on the canal bed. After a nearly three-hour operation, the vehicle was pulled to the surface.

Sita Devi, wife of Munni Lal, told **TOI** the tragedy shattered their family. "His parents died, pining for him. Due to lack of proof, we could not even obtain his death certificate."

According to Saini, the rear portion of the van and its roof were badly damaged, possibly due to impact and prolonged exposure to strong currents and water pressure. A few skeletal remains, clothing, shoes and the school uniform of the child were recovered.

Mounting debts forced the family to sell their dairy shop five years after the disappearance. Pointing at a photo of her husband, she said, "I garlanded him after his last prayers."

Tej Ram's son Bhupinder, who was five at the time, recalled their hardships. "I am told my father sold 3 kanals of land (around 16,335 sq ft) to buy the Omni. We sold another 5 kanals (27,225 sq ft) to finance search operations."

The families borrowed heavily to hire private divers after official searches failed. "Despite hardships, my brother and I somehow managed to study till Class XII," added Bhupinder. Saini said simply attaching chains and cables to the wreck was extremely dangerous. "But it brought closure to the families," he added. Kiratpur Sahib SHO inspector Rahul Sharma said the families, with the help of local divers, recovered the van themselves and informed police.

Some bone fragments that were found in the victims' clothes were immersed according to religious rituals. The families held a collective Ardas at Gurdwara Patalpuri Sahib in Ropar.

## Kerala govt pulls plug on SilverLine plan

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Kerala chief minister V D Satheesan Wednesday announced that UDF govt had decided to scrap the SilverLine semi-high-speed rail project, ending the flagship infrastructure initiative of the previous LDF govt led by Pinarayi Vijayan, which was among the most contentious projects in the state's recent history.

The CM told media that the cabinet took a decision to cancel the Thiruvananthapuram-Kasaragod project and revoke all land acquisition notifications issued for it. "Though the project had effectively been dropped, the notifications continued to remain in force, causing difficulties for ordinary people who were unable to sell, purchase or mortgage their land," Satheesan said.

People affected by the land acquisition process and others opposed to the project welcomed the decision.

The CM said the home department would recommend the withdrawal of cases related to protests against the project pending before various courts. A decision on withdrawal would be taken after examining the nature and status of each case individually, he added. Satheesan clarified that UDF was not against a high-speed rail corridor.

# Rahul calls Modi, Shah 'traitor'; BJP slams 'anarchic' mindset

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Rahul's choice of words was met with an angry reaction from BJP

**New Delhi/Lucknow:** Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday called PM Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah "traitor", drawing a furious response from BJP, as its president Nitin Nabin slammed the Congress MP's remark as reflective of his "anarchic" mindset and described him as "rahu" for public life, vitiating the country's political atmosphere with his conduct.

Addressing the Bahujan Swabhiman Sabha, an outreach to backwards and Dalits organised to commemorate 1857 uprising hero Veera Pasi, in his constituency Rae Bareli, Rahul said, "You (people) will have to stand up and fight."

"When RSS workers reach out to you and talk about Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, you must tell them that their organisation, Modi and Shah are traitors. They have worked towards selling our country and attacked our Constitution, Ambedkarji and Mahatma Gandhi," he said.

Rahul's choice of words was met with an angry reaction from BJP. "The kind of statement he has made clearly reflects his anarchic and divisive mindset. It also reflects his frustration and disappointment as his party is facing defeats in elections," Nabin told reporters. He said Rahul seems to be losing his mental balance.

Nabin asked if Modi who curbed terrorism and ended Naxalism is a traitor or previous Congress govts under which terrorism and Naxalism grew. While Rahul's ancestors "mortgaged" India's land and interests, under Modi, the country is secure and the confidence of people boosted, he said.

He said, "You do not learn lessons from the past. Whenever you have insulted Narendra Modi, people of this country have made him victorious. If you do not apologise to the 140 crore people of this country, they will again teach you a lesson."

With Rahul dismissing Modi's gift of a packet of 'melody' toffees to Italian PM Georgia Meloni as a drama when India is facing an "economic storm", Union minister Piyush Goyal asked why he has so much "hate" for India and Indian products. "India has become a trusted destination for the world through its 'made in India' and 'local goes global' initiatives but Congress can find only problems in every Indian achievements," he said, alleging that Rahul cannot stomach the country's rising stature under Modi's leadership.

Congress's Pawan Khera defended Rahul's "traitor" remark against Modi and Shah, saying what he said was less than what one hears on the streets about this govt. "There is a deep sense of betrayal that people feel, especially those who voted for them," he said.

Another Union minister Kiren Rijiju said, "Not surprised that Congress is losing people's support. I wonder how Congress people don't realise that it's their leader and spokespersons who are pushing away even those people who are politically neutral. Congress can't read people's pulse, public hate negative politics!"

## ED not bound to share ECIR; no place for 'Miranda Rights' in India: Patna HC

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**New Delhi:** Even as challenges to several provisions of PMLA are pending review before a three-judge bench of Supreme Court, Patna High Court on Monday reiterated the powers conferred on the Enforcement Directorate under the Act, and said the central agency was not bound to share ECIR (enforcement case information report) with an accused as it was not a statutory document and neither was it equivalent to an FIR registered by the police.

While dismissing a writ petition seeking to quash an ECIR registered by ED, Justice Arun Kumar Jha of Patna HC said, "If ECIR is an internal document of the department, no question arises for quashing the same as the said document is akin to a private document created for initiation of a proceeding and it may be so that no proceeding might be initiated pursuant to the said document and the proceeding may even be dropped. Therefore, a person, as a matter of right, cannot claim quashing of the ECIR."

The court further said that unless the predicate offence itself was quashed, ECIR proceedings would ordinarily survive. The HC rejected importation of 'Miranda Rights' of the US into PMLA and accepted the ED's submission that Miranda warnings had no legal force in India and they could not be grafted into Section 50, adding that Indian statutory safeguards were sufficient.

Any protection under self-incrimination is not allowed under PMLA. "Miranda Rights have no legal force in the Indian legal system as our system has incorporated these rights by way of various statutory provisions. In absence of incorporation of these principles under the PMLA, these rights could not be granted in Section 50 of the PMLA," the ED said.

Miranda Rights are legal protections in the US that require police to inform suspects of their constitutional rights before custodial interrogation.

Quoting from the SC judgment in Vijay Madanlal Choudhary vs Union of India, Justice Jha said, "These issues came up for consideration before the SC and the court refused to subscribe to the view that recording of statement under Section 50 is hit by vice of Article 20(3) of the Constitution or, for that matter, Article 21 of the Constitution.

# RIL wants conciliation with Centre on KG basin gas pilferage demand

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**New Delhi:** Centre on Wednesday opposed repeated requests by Reliance Industries Ltd, which has challenged Union govt's demand of $2.81 bn for alleged pilferage of gas from ONGC block in KG Basin, to adjourn the hearing to explore conciliation between the two sides.

At the outset of the hearing, advocates Sameer Parikh and R Sasiprabhu representing RIL, made the request to a bench of CJI Surya Kant, Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi, which is specifically constituted for final hearing on the decade-old dispute. Attorney general R Venkataramani opposed and said the hearing should be concluded. RIL's lead counsel Harish Salve had requested SC to adjourn hearing to July citing personal health issues and that he would like to argue before the SC as he had conducted the proceedings before the arbitral tribunal that had ruled in RIL's favour. SC had told RIL to make alternative arrangements in Salve's absence.

On Parikh's request, the CJI-led bench said, "We will conclude the hearing but will give breathing time for you to explore conciliation with the Centre. If you arrive at a settlement with the Union govt, report it to us and we will dispose of the appeal. Prior to the bench taking up the RIL's appeal, which challenged the decision of a division bench of Delhi HC reversing concurrent findings in favour of RIL by the arbitral tribunal and the single judge bench of HC, senior advocate Mahesh Agrawal repeated the request for adjournment to enable RIL explore conciliation. But the bench remained firm about concluding the final hearing.

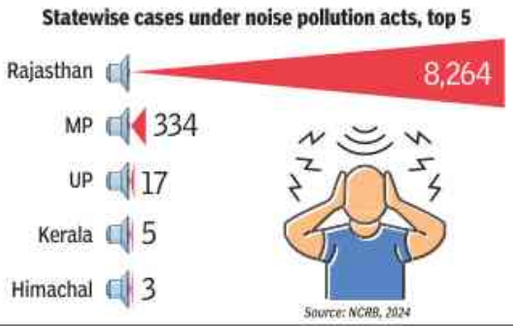
Advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for RIL, told the bench that the HC erred in interfering with the well-considered international arbitral award and explained that the flow of gas from ONGC block to RIL was a natural phenomenon. He said that even if RIL extracted, although not deliberately, gas belonging to ONGC, the group has accounted for it and routed the benefits to the govt hence causing no loss to it.

**STATISTICS** A slice of life in numbers

## Almost all noise pollution cases come from one state

Rajasthan recorded by far the highest number of noise pollution cases in 2024. Most violations involved loudspeakers, DJ systems, wedding processions and religious events using high-decibel sound systems beyond permitted hours

**Statewise cases under noise pollution acts, top 5**



Source: NCRB, 2024

# *Indian experts find new antibiotic-resistant 'superbug'*

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**Prayagraj:** A dangerous new "superbug" that can resist several commonly used antibiotics has been identified by Indian scientists.

Researchers have successfully completed the first whole-genome sequencing of a new strain of Proteus mirabilis, a bacterium known to cause severe urinary tract and bloodstream infections.

The newly identified strain has been named Proteus mirabilis Strain Indica (ST286). The research was carried out by a team of 11 scientists from BHU, Manipal University in Jaipur, Amity University in Gurugram, National Dairy Research Institute and other collaborating institutes. The study was published on May 16 in the international journal BMC Microbiology, published by Springer Nature.

Sharing details, Gyaneshwar Chaubey of the department of zoology at BHU said, "The bacterium is dangerous because it can survive against many powerful antibiotics usually used to treat serious infections. The strain was discovered in 2024 from a discarded diagnostic culture plate at a hospital in West Bengal. Initially, it was wrongly identified as another bacterium, but advanced genome sequencing later confirmed it to be a completely new strain of Proteus mirabilis."

The bacterium mainly affects patients suffering from diabetes, weak immunity, catheter-related complications and hospital-acquired infections. It can cause urinary tract infections, wound infections and infections in the bloodstream, which can become life-threatening if medicines fail to work.

Chaubey said the strain carries several resistance genes that make it immune to important antibiotics, including penicillin-based medicines, tetracycline and fluoroquinolones. Scientists also found multiple "virulence factors" that help the bacterium spread rapidly and cause severe infection inside the body.

First authors Sovan Acharya and Parmanand Kushwaha said, "India had a severe shortage of genomic data on Proteus mirabilis. Strain Indica is not only MDR (multidrug resistant) but its virulence hub genes provide promising targets for new vaccines, antibodies and bacteriophage therapies. Continuous regional genomic surveillance is essential, otherwise treating hospital-acquired UTIs and serious infections will become extremely difficult."

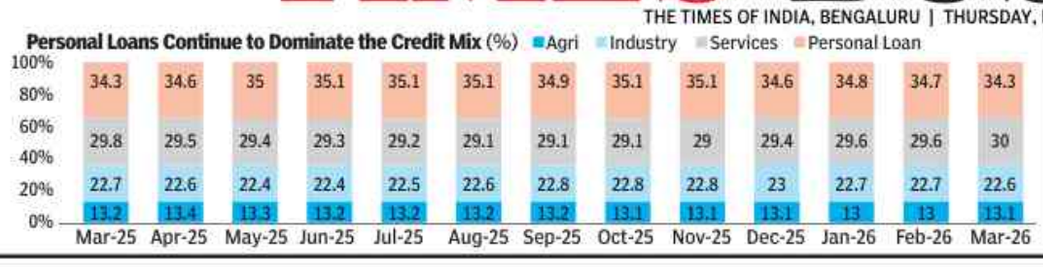
Another author of the paper, Prashant Suravajhala, warned, "The resistance genes in this bacterium are linked to mobile genetic elements like IS91, which are rapidly turning it into a 'superbug'." Researchers said the same team has also discovered a special bacteriophage that can reduce the protective biofilm of the bacterium by up to 55%. Scientists now plan to work on vaccines, targeted medicines and phage-based therapies to control the infection.

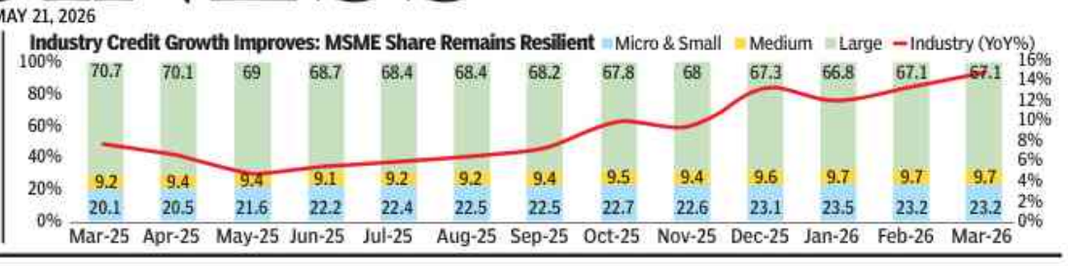
Experts believe the study is important for India, where antibiotic resistance has become a serious public health challenge due to excessive and uncontrolled use of antibiotics. The discovery is expected to help doctors and researchers better understand how such dangerous bacteria evolve and how future treatments can be developed before these infections become untreatable.

TIMES BUSINESS
THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026

**Credit offtake improved in March 2026, with non-food bank credit growth rising to 15.9% YoY compared to 11% in March 2025.** The growth was supported by strong traction in personal loans, alongside steady expansion in services and industrial credit, where NBFCs and MSMEs acted as key drivers

Source: RBI, CareEdge




## Greece's Eurobank begins India ops with UPI bridge

**Mumbai:** Eurobank opened its India office, becoming the first Greek, Cypriot bank with a physical India presence, and has started out with a payments bridge by activating UPI-based cross-border remittances in partnership with NPCI International Payments Ltd, NPCI's arm. This makes it the first European bank to do so. The service, live in Greece and set for Cyprus rollout, covers end-to-end flows including initiation, clearing, reconciliation, disputes, resulting in more efficient transfers. The official inauguration will take place in Mumbai on Thursday with Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides attending. The move follows the EU–India trade pact, aiming to deepen trade and investment flows. TNN

## Mann+Hummel to invest over ₹100cr in India expansion

**Bengaluru:** Mann+Hummel is expanding its India operations with a new global technology and innovation centre in Tumkur, Karnataka, and a manufacturing facility in Pune, as the German filtration technology company looks to deepen its role in global product development and exports from the country.

The company said the combined investment across the two projects will exceed Rs 100 crore. The Tumkur facility will serve as Mann+Hummel's largest development centre outside Germany and focus on product engineering, testing and validation for global markets.

"We are transitioning India from a support hub to a strategic engineering powerhouse," Sudeesh Karimbingal, the company's India managing director said. The company currently employs around 1,250 people in India and plans to add another 300-400 employees over the next year.

Mann+Hummel develops filtration systems used across passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, industrial applications, water purification and clean-air systems. The company supplies to most major automotive OEMs operating in India, executives said. India is also becoming increasingly important in the company's global engineering network, especially as automakers push deeper into electric mobility. — **Aditi Bhardwaj**

# Financiers can't block borrower phones, online shaming barred

## RBI Amends Rules, Implementation Deferred To Oct 1, 2026

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Mobile phone financiers will face restrictions on "mobile lock" practices under RBI's amended rules for loan recovery. Under the reworked draft regulation, lenders can restrict financed devices only under explicit contractual consent and after a 90-day default cycle with a staged 60-day and 7-day notice regime, while mandating that core functions such as incoming calls, internet, SOS, and public alerts remain accessible. The norms also require banks to unlock devices within one hour of payment or pay Rs 250 per hour as penalty.

The draft introduces a more structured and technology-aware framework compared to the Feb 2026 version. While both drafts aim to curb harsh recovery practices, the May draft shifts focus from individual agents to organised recovery agencies, refines operational timelines, and adds detailed rules for technology-backed recovery.

It also bars lenders from accessing borrower data on devices and prohibits sharing creditor information on social media, strengthening privacy alongside recovery norms. The definition of recovery agents has been widened to include those engaged in routine EMI collection, and a formal borrower compensation provision has been introduced.

The scope now explicitly includes business correspondents engaged in recovery activities, closing regulatory gaps. Customer protection norms have also been widened, with fair-conduct provisions applying to routine EMI collections where borrowers are not in default. To enable transition, the RBI has deferred implementation by three months from July 1, 2026, to Oct 1, 2026.

Borrowers must be informed via text or email at least one day before the first visit, or through a physical letter at least three days in advance in case digital contact is unavailable. Affected borrowers must be immediately notified of any agency terminations.

The code of conduct for recovery agents and bank staff has also been tightened. Banks must retain call recordings for at least six months, or longer if disputes are subjudice. Contact hours remain limited between 08:00 to 19:00. The definition of harsh methods now includes misuse of social media by sharing borrower details or recordings.

Banks must also embed compensation mechanisms in policies to reimburse borrowers or guarantors for losses arising from violations of these directions.

**THREAT NO MORE: NORMS ENSURE PRIVACY**

- Phone locks allowed only after explicit consent, 90-day default with proper 60-day and 7-day notices; core functions like SOS, incoming calls, and internet to be active
- Devices must be unlocked within one hour of payment or ₹250/hour penalty applies
- Access to borrower data barred; sharing details on social media prohibited
- Tighter conduct norms, more transparency for banks and recovery agencies; advance notices a must, banks must provide compensation for violations

# Diplomacy to Q-comm: Melody's demand spikes

## Case Of Mistaken Identity: Some On Dalal Street End Up Betting On Wrong Stock

**Supriya Roy, Rupali Mukherjee & Partha Sinha** | TNN

**Bengaluru/Delhi/Mumbai:** The shelves began emptying even before Parle Products could quite understand what was happening. By Wednesday evening, searches on Melody, the caramel-chocolate toffee by the Mumbai-based manufacturer of biscuits and confectionery, had jumped over 190 times on Google, while search strings like 'Melody Modi', 'Meloni Melody' all had 'breakout' tags on the search platform.

It didn't take much time for ecommerce and quick commerce platforms to see a spike in orders. By 3pm, searches for Melody chocolates across these platforms surged about 50-fold, Mayank Shah, VP & chief marketing officer, Parle Products, told **TOI**. The spike came just hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted a pack of Melody to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni during a diplomatic meeting. The video of that moment quickly spiralled into one of internet's favourite moments of the day. By evening, on a YouTube channel the video had generated over 130 million views, reports showed.

According to Shah, by Wednesday afternoon around 40-45% of dark stores of Q-Comm companies like Blinkit and Zepto that are across Parle's network had run out of Melody stock.

The nearly century-old company had to rush additional inventory to ecommerce warehouses, dark stores and retail trade channels to keep up with demand.

"It is a moment of immense pride for all of us at Parle Products," Shah said. When the Prime Minister gifts a Parle product to world leaders, it is a powerful testament to the potential of Swadeshi brands on the global stage. "Melody is India's largest selling toffee brand and is today available in over 100 countries. We are deeply grateful to the Prime Minister for giving Indian brands this incredible recognition and visibility."

A senior executive at Blinkit, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed to **TOI** that the platform had also seen a sharp rise in both searches and sales of Melody across pin codes after the Modi-Meloni moment went viral online. Even govt joined in. Piyush Goyal, Union commerce & industry minister, posted on X that India's "Toffee Tale would surely be melody to the ears." Goyal highlighted that in the last 12 years to March 2026, exports of Indian toffees, caramels and similar sweets had grown nearly 166% to Rs 132 crore.

Dalal Street punters, never a step behind to grab an opportunity to make money in a frenzy, also jumped in right after the Melody video started getting eyeballs. Ironically, though, they bet on the stock of a wrong company: Parle Industries, a company that's in the waste management and recycling business. The company doesn't have any direct connection to Melody chocolates maker Parle Products.

By noon, the stock that had lost about 35% in the last three months, hit the 5% upper circuit at Rs 5.25 on BSE and closed at that level. Volumes spiked more than two times to over 8.5 lakh shares.

**HOOKED TO TOFFEE TALES**

- **Spike for chocolates came hours after PM Modi gifted** a pack of Melody to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni
- According to Parle Products, searches for Melody chocolates across **ecommerce and quick commerce platforms had surged 50-fold by 3pm**
- **Around 40-45% of dark stores across Parle's network had run out of Melody stock** by Wednesday afternoon, according to the company
- **Parle is rushing additional inventory** to ecommerce warehouses, dark stores and retail trade channels to keep up with demand
- **Shares of listed waste management company Parle Industries hit the upper circuit** despite having no direct connection to Melody chocolates, which are owned by the privately held Parle Products

# Ola Electric cuts Q4 loss amid falling revenue

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Ola Electric narrowed its losses in the March quarter as the company cut costs sharply, even as revenue continued to decline amid slowing electric scooter demand and rising competition.

The Bhavish Aggarwal-led company reported a net loss of Rs 500 crore in the January-March period, compared with a loss of Rs 870 crore a year earlier. Sequentially, losses were marginally higher than Rs 487 crore in the Dec quarter. Total expenses nearly halved year-on-year to Rs 546 crore from Rs 1,306 crore. Cost of materials consumed fell to Rs 124 crore from Rs 350 crore a year earlier. Employee benefit expenses also declined to Rs 58 crore from Rs 99 crore.

**EV maker focuses on automation, store rationalisation and local mfg amid rising competition from rivals**

The results come as Ola Electric faces pressure from rivals including Bajaj Auto and TVS Motor, which have gained market share in India's electric two-wheeler market over the past year. The company has been focusing on automation, store rationalisation and higher in-house manufacturing to lower operating costs.

Earlier this month, Ola Electric said it would invest Rs 2,000 crore into its EV and battery cell subsidiaries as it doubles down on vertical integration and local cell manufacturing. Total income for the March quarter fell to Rs 304 crore from Rs 728 crore a year earlier. Revenue from operations declined to Rs 265 crore from Rs 611 crore. For the financial year 2025-26, Ola Electric reported total income of Rs 2,460 crore, down from Rs 4,932 crore in the previous year. Net loss for the year narrowed to Rs 1,633 crore from Rs 2,276 crore a year earlier.

## Lenskart Q4 profit slips 7.5% despite revenue rise

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Lenskart Solutions reported a decline in fourth-quarter profit even as revenue rose sharply, driven by store expansion, higher average selling prices and growth in international markets.

The eyewear retailer posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 203.6 crore for the quarter ended March 2026 (Q4), compared with Rs 220.1 crore a year earlier. Total income rose 32% year-on-year to Rs 2,564.7 crore from Rs 1,939.3 crore, according to the company's audited financial results.

For the full financial year ended March 2026 (FY26), the company reported a net profit of Rs 500.9 crore, up from Rs 297.3 crore in FY25, while total income increased to Rs 8,988.3 crore from Rs 7,009.3 crore.

**GLOBAL PUSH**

In its shareholder letter, founder and CEO Peyush Bansal said the company was entering a "compounding phase," driven by deeper customer engagement, premiumisation and expansion across India and international markets.

India revenue for the company grew 44.1% year-on-year in Q4 to Rs 1,475 crore, aided by same-store sales growth of 24.2%. The company added 542 net new stores in India during FY26, compared with 282 stores in FY25, taking its presence to 3,300-plus stores globally. The Gurugram-based company's international revenue grew 35.4% year-on-year in Q4 to Rs 1,054 crore, led by markets such as Japan, Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

Lenskart also said it has started rolling out its AI-powered smart glasses brand "B by Lenskart." The company said over 30,000 customers have joined the waitlist so far.

## India core sector expands 1.7%, but 5 industries contract

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Amid the conflict in West Asia, output in India's eight core infrastructure industries inched up to 1.7% in April from the upwardly revised 1.2% in March, latest official data released Wednesday showed.

Notably, as many as four industries linked to energy sector and the fertiliser industry registered a decline in output during the month, showing the impact of the blockade of the strait of Hormuz in the wake of the conflict in the Persian Gulf region.

Data showed output in coal (-8.7%) and fertilisers (-8.6%) contracted for the second consecutive month, while crude oil (-3.9%) output declined for the eighth consecutive month. Also, output in natural gas (-4.3%) and refinery products (-0.5%) shrank in April after a positive showing in March.

However, output in steel (6.2%) and cement (9.4%) sectors accelerated during the month, reflecting continued govt capex. Electricity generation (4.1%) also picked up pace. The eight core sectors constitute 40.3% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), which measures output in the country's industrial sector.

## BEL sees 16.1% rise in FY26 revenue on strong orders

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** State-run defence electronics major Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) reported a 16.1% rise in revenue from operations for FY26, driven by steady execution of defence contracts and a strong order pipeline.

The defence PSU posted revenue from operations of Rs 27,479.6 crore during FY26, compared with Rs 23,658 crore in the previous financial year, according to figures released by the company on Wednesday. BEL also recorded growth in profitability during the year. Profit before tax (PBT) stood at Rs 8,075 crore, up 13.9% from Rs 7,090 crore in FY25. Profit after tax (PAT) rose 14.4% to Rs 6,048.5 crore from Rs 5,288.2 crore in the previous year.

The company's fourth-quarter performance also showed growth across key financial indicators. Revenue from operations during the Jan-March quarter rose to Rs 10,177.2 crore from Rs 9,119.7 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Quarterly PBT increased marginally to Rs 2,903.8 crore from Rs 2,847.6 crore, while PAT rose to Rs 2,203.2 crore from Rs 2,104.8 crore recorded in the same period a year earlier.

# GCCs reward AI skills with bigger hikes: Report

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**Bengaluru:** In 2026, GCCs in India are paying higher salary increases than traditional IT services firms, even as compensation patterns become increasingly differentiated, driven by AI-led pay polarisation and a growing emphasis on skills.

The sector is registering an average annual salary hike of 9.8%, according to a Zinnov report on compensation, attrition, and hiring trends. Hiring activity remained strong at around 27.4% annually, while average attrition stood at 16%, indicating continued employee movement across the industry.

The findings suggest GCCs are maintaining a healthy pace of talent expansion, although hiring is becoming more selective. Compensation trends were significantly stronger for specific employee groups. Professionals with niche skills recorded average salary increases of 18.1%, highlighting the premium placed on specialised capabilities. High performers also received above-average rewards, with annual salary growth of around 17.2%.

The hiring mix is also shifting. Lateral hiring averaged 17.8%, while fresher hiring stood at 9.6%, indicating a stronger preference for experienced talent. "Some routine functions such as testing and L1 support are becoming automated. At the same time, demand is shifting towards AI-centric roles such as prompt engineers, forward deployment engineers, AI forensic specialists, MLOps specialists and data annotators," said Namita Adavi, partner at Zinnov. The nature of hiring itself is evolving, with GCCs increasingly building smaller, more specialised teams focused on outcomes.

**SALARY TRENDS**

**Over 85% of GCCs have adopted a differentiated compensation structure to woo high-performing talent**

| Niche Skills | 2026E |
|---|---|
| AI/ML | 21.1% |
| Cybersecurity | 20.0% |
| NLP | 19.2% |
| Robotics | 18.1% |
| Data Science | 17.6% |
| UI/UX | 16.7% |
| Cloud Tech | 16.1% |
| Site Reliability Engineers (SRE) | 15.9% |

Source: Zinnov Research & Analysis

"There is a shift towards quad-based delivery, where small cross-functional teams come together to execute specific product sprints and then disband. AI has compressed the product development cycle significantly. Organisations increasingly want full-stack teams combining technical and functional expertise rather than only technical specialists," Adavi said.

The report said salary increases have stabilised after the volatility seen during the post-pandemic hiring surge. During 2021-22, GCCs offered aggressive salary hikes amid an intense war for talent. As attrition declined from more than 20% to 16%, job switching moderated, reducing the need for outsized retention-led salary increases and enabling more predictable compensation planning.

Rather than increasing salary expenditure across the board, GCCs are reallocating spending through a "skill over seniority" approach. Nikita Goel, managing partner at Zinnov, said companies are increasingly experimenting with new reward structures, including impact bonuses, stock-based compensation, skill allowances, AI certification incentives and learning wallets. "For some AI and cloud roles, firms are even accelerating vesting schedules for stock rewards," Goel said.

Companies are also reshaping performance and promotion criteria around AI-enabled productivity and skills-based capabilities.

GCCs now expect employees to demonstrate AI-enabled productivity through tools such as AI-assisted coding, workflow automation and call summarisation. High performers are increasingly viewed as force multipliers capable of delivering larger impact through technology adoption. "Low-complexity coding roles could face increasing pressure as AI-assisted development becomes more mainstream," Goel said.

# *FMCG volumes risk slowing to 3-4% this year*

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** The war-led volatility in energy markets coupled with the risk of food inflation amid projections of below-normal monsoon rains this year could weigh on FMCG volume growth, Worldpanel by Numerator (formerly Kantar) said in its update on Wednesday.

It estimated volume growth to drop to 3-4% if the situation doesn't improve, as an unstable domestic macro-environment may prod consumers to cut back on discretionary spends and reduce shopping trips.

"If higher energy costs coincide with food inflation from weather stress, FMCG volume growth could soften....a prolonged move (for crude) towards $100 alters cost structures across logistics, packaging inputs and fertiliser availability," analysts at the firm said, adding that sub-normal rainfall which typically translates into slower rural recovery weighs on food categories and low-ticket discretionary items.

**OIL SPIKE, DEFICIENT RAINS MAY TAKE TOLL**

- Fresh challenge comes just when FMCG volumes had started picking up, expanding to 5.4% in the March quarter from 3.5% in the year-ago period
- With the war sending oil prices above $100 per barrel, companies such as HUL, Dabur, Godrej Consumer Products and Marico have taken price hikes in the range of 2-7% to cope with high input

> If higher energy costs coincide with food inflation from weather stress, FMCG volume growth could soften....a prolonged move (for crude) towards $100 alters cost structures across logistics, packaging inputs and fertiliser availability
> —Analysts at Worldpanel by Numerator (formerly Kantar)

The fresh challenge for the sector comes just when FMCG volumes had started picking up, expanding to 5.4% in the March quarter from 3.5% in the year-ago period, helped by GST cuts which made daily household products cheaper. However, with the war sending oil prices above $100 per barrel, companies such as Hindustan Unilever (HUL), Dabur, Godrej Consumer Products and Marico took price hikes in the range of 2-7% to cope with high input costs.

With retail fuel prices seeing two rounds of increases, firms are expected to take more price hikes in the coming months as the move will directly have a bearing on logistics and packaging costs. "Consumers can increase the purchase of smaller packs," K Ramakrishnan, MD, South Asia at Worldpanel by Numerator told TOI.

High prices over the past couple of years had already been nudging the middle class to reduce their frequency of grocery shopping and instead spend more per trip. "Price per unit has risen meaningfully across FMCG over the last two years including in staples and mass categories," the firm said.

Higher prices pushed up value growth which stood at 13.3% over the past year and 13.1% in March quarter, outpacing volume growth. The current macro scenario "raises the probability that priced growth extends for longer....in such environments, shoppers do not withdraw consumption drastically, but re-organise it," the firm said, adding that in a benign environment, FMCG volume growth should have moved closer to 5% over the year.

Impulse food categories will face reduced (buying) frequency while household care is expected to stand out as the most structurally resilient category.

# Narrow India-US rate differential impacts foreign debt inflows

▶ Continued from page 1

According to the CCIL website, the one-year premium on the dollar opened at 321 paise, rose to a high of 322 paise and was last at 302 paise. "Because of the ongoing West Asia conflict and consequent higher oil prices, the rupee is finding little support, with risks of the current account deficit overshooting. The India-US rate differential is too narrow — an overseas investor can earn about 4.65% in US dollar bonds, versus roughly 3.04% in India after hedging. That weakens the case for debt inflows. India needs to lower FX (forex) forward costs or interest rates to attract foreign capital, which remains critical for growth," said Ashhish Vaidya, treasury head, DBS.

Dealers said that the rupee was prevented from breaching the 97 level due to sale of dollars by public sector banks ostensibly on behalf of RBI. A rate hike by Indonesia following pressures arising out of the US-Iran war has raised expectations of central bank action in other emerging markets as well. According to a Bloomberg report, Indonesia, the Philippines and India are seen as the most vulnerable to the US-Iran conflict with their central banks coming under pressure to take policy action.

"WHAT I ADMIRE ABOUT PAT CUMMINS IS THE WAY HE GOES ABOUT HIS BUSINESS. HE'S VERY SMART AND THERE'S NEVER ANY PANIC, EVEN IF HE GOES FOR A BOUNDARY. HE ALWAYS KNOWS WHAT HE NEEDS TO DO WITH THE NEXT DELIVERY."
—Mark Boucher | Ex-SA wicketkeeper

# KNIGHTS KEEP BREATHING

## KKR Stay Alive In Playoff Race After Pandey & Powell Fashion Tricky 148-Run Chase On Slow Eden Pitch

**Archiman.Bhaduri**
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**Kolkata:** Kolkata Knight Riders kept their IPL playoff hopes alive with a four-wicket win over Mumbai Indians at Eden Gardens here on Wednesday, chasing down 148 with seven balls to spare. The victory took KKR to 13 points from 13 matches and kept the playoff race interestingly poised. Rahane's side will still need to win its last league game, against Delhi Capitals at Eden Gardens on May 24, to stay in contention.

On a sluggish surface where both sides struggled to force the pace, the hosts first did well to keep MI's high-profile batting unit down to 147/8 after KKR skipper Ajinkya Rahane chose to bowl first after winning the toss.

KKR's chase began shakily. In-form opener Finn Allen fell in the first over, chopping Deepak Chahar onto his stumps for eight. Bosch then had Rahane caught behind for 21 in the sixth over before removing Cameron Green in his next over to leave KKR under pressure at 54/3 in the eighth over.

Things could have got worse for the hosts when Rovman Powell, on 13, offered a skier, only for Robin Minz and Chahar to allow the chance to drop between them. That reprieve proved costly for MI.

Manish Pandey, getting to bat for the first time in his fifth match this season, anchored the chase with a composed 45 off 33 balls. He added 64 for the fourth wicket with Powell, whose 40 off 30 balls gave KKR the momentum they needed. The West Indian's innings ended when Bosch completed a sharp catch at point off AM Ghazanfar.

Pandey was bowled by Jasprit Bumrah to make it 118/4 in the 15th over and Powell followed six runs later, but the asking rate was under control by then. Tejasvi Dahiya, who came in as concussion substitute for Angkrish Raghuvanshi, made 11 before Bosch struck again, but Rinku Singh and Anukul Roy completed the job as KKR reached 148/6 in 18.5 overs.

Earlier, Green, who had not bowled in the first half of this IPL, made a significant difference with the new ball by providing the early breakthroughs. Rohit Sharma began brightly, lofting Green over backward square leg for the first six of the match in the third over. But Green responded by dismissing Ryan Rickelton and Naman Dhir in the same over.

The Australian allrounder went around the wicket to dismiss Rickelton, whose mistimed shot went high for Manish Pandey to complete a well-judged catch at point. Dhir lasted three balls before edging an away-going delivery to wicketkeeper Raghuvanshi.

**3** For the third time in an IPL season, Suryakumar Yadav has failed to average even 20 when he has appeared in at least 5 innings. He averaged 17.44 in 2015 and 17.5 in both 2017 & 2026. In this IPL, he has scored 210 in 12 innings.

Pradip Datta

Hardik Pandya is bowled by Sunil Narine on Wednesday

**45** Since posting 50 off 38 balls vs RCB in Bengaluru on Apr 15, 2023, Manish Pandey has registered his highest score in eleven IPL innings.

**40** Rovman Powell has recorded his highest score in this IPL. His only fifty remains 67 not out vs SRH at Brabourne Stadium, Mumbai on May 5, 2022.

**6.4** KKR spinner Sunil Narine's economy rate while claiming 14 wickets at 21.5 runs apiece in 12 matches, the best by a bowler this season in the IPL. Gujarat Titans' Jason Holder remains the only other bowler to record an economy rate of less than 7 this season — 6.87 (13 wickets in seven matches).

**32** An unbeaten knock played by MI's Corbin Bosch off 18 balls, his highest score in the IPL, bettering the 27 vs GT at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai on May 6, 2025.

**1** For the first time in an IPL match, KKR have captured four wickets in the powerplay vs MI.

### SCOREBOARD

**MI:** R Rickleton c Pandey b Green 6, R Sharma c Green b Dubey 15, N Dhir c Raghuvanshi b Green 0, S Yadav b Dubey 15, T Varma c Roy b Tyagi 20, H Pandya b Narine 26, W Jacks run out 14, C Bosch not out 32, D Chahar c Roy b Tyagi 10; **Extras: (b4, lb2, w3) 9; Total: (8 wkts) 147; FoW:** 1-17, 2-17, 3-23, 4-41, 5-84, 6-95, 7-105, 8-147; **Bowling:** Roy 1-0-6-0, Dubey 4-0-34-2, Green 3-0-23-2, Tyagi 4-0-37-2, Narine 4-0-13-1, Chakaravarthy 4-0-28-0.

**KKR:** A Rahane c Rickleton b Bosch 21, F Allen b Chahar 8, M Pandey b Bumrah 45, C Green c Ghazanfar b Bosch 4, R Powell c Bosch b Ghazanfar 40, R Singh not out 9, T Dahiya c Rickleton b Bosch 11, A Roy not out 4; **Extras: (lb 1, w 4, nb 1) 6; Total: (6 wkts in 18.5 ovrs) 148; FoW:** 1-10, 2-48, 3-54, 4-118, 5-124, 6-140; **Bowling:** Chahar 3-0-23-1, Bumrah 4-0-26-1, Bosch 3-0-30-3, Ghazanfar 4-0-25-1, Pandya 2-0-13-0, Raghu 2-0-23-0, Jacks 0.5-0-7-0

**Result:** KKR won by 4 wickets

### HOW THEY STAND

| TEAM | M | W | L | NR | NRR | P |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RCB | 13 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 1.065 | 18 |
| GT | 13 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 0.400 | 16 |
| SRH | 13 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 0.350 | 16 |
| RR | 13 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 0.083 | 14 |
| PBKS | 13 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 0.227 | 13 |
| KKR | 13 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 0.011 | 13 |
| CSK | 13 | 6 | 7 | 0 | -0.016 | 12 |
| DC | 13 | 6 | 7 | 0 | -0.871 | 12 |
| MI | 13 | 4 | 9 | 0 | -0.510 | 8 |
| LSG | 13 | 4 | 9 | 0 | -0.702 | 8 |

TIME TO ASK APOLLO AI
SUMMER: SUGAR
Sugary summer sodas actually increase a child's dehydration by 20%.
Scan to cut hidden sugar
For any Health Query Chat with
Ask Apollo AI
Apollo AI: Clinical excellence for healthier India
Apollo 24|7

## India drop to sixth in WTC points table

**Dubai:** The Indian cricket team dropped to sixth in the latest World Test Championship (WTC) rankings after Bangladesh improved a rung to fifth with a crushing 2-0 series sweep against Pakistan at home.

Bangladesh had earlier won the first Test by a massive 104 runs in Mirpur and with another big win on Wednesday, the team leapfrogged India as per the latest ICC update.

Bangladesh now have 58.33 percentage points with two wins, one loss and a draw in four Tests while India have 48.15 points from nine Tests, four wins and as many defeats along with a drawn Test.

India, who featured in the finals of the first two editions of the WTC, are now ranked only above Pakistan in the rankings among Asian countries.

The Shubman Gill-led side has not played a Test match so far this year. The Indians are due to tour Sri Lanka and New Zealand for two Tests each later this year before facing Australia at home in 2027. South Africa are placed third followed by Sri Lanka. PTI

## Taijul takes six as Bangladesh sweep Pakistan Test series

**Sylhet:** Spinner Taijul Islam took six wickets to lead Bangladesh to a 78-run win over Pakistan in the second Test and clinch a famous 2-0 series win on Wednesday.

Pakistan, who started the fifth day on 316-7 chasing a record 437, were bowled out for 328 in the first session in Sylhet after Mohammad Rizwan hit a valiant 94. It was Bangladesh's first Test series win at home against Pakistan and a second successive sweep after their 2-0 triumph on Pakistani soil in 2024. The win marked another major milestone for Bangladesh, who secured four successive Test series wins for the first time. AFP

**Brief scores:** Bangladesh 278 & 390 (M Rahim 137, L Das 69; K Shahzad 4-86) beat Pakistan 232 & 358 (M Rizwan 94, S Agha 71; T Islam 6-120) by 78 runs.

## CSK need big win vs GT to stay alive

**Sabu.Cherian**@timesofindia.com

**Ahmedabad:** Five-time champions Chennai Super Kings return to a venue that holds a special place in their history. It was here in 2023 that CSK beat Gujarat Titans off the last ball to win the IPL for the fifth time. At the same venue two months ago, CSK's new recruit Sanju Samson smashed 89 off 46 balls against New Zealand in the T20 WC final to help India win their third title. Come Thursday, CSK will be hoping for an encore from their wicketkeeper-batter when they take on GT in their final league match.

There is plenty riding on the clash for GT, who have already qualified for the playoffs. They are looking to bounce back from a 29-run loss to Kolkata Knight Riders, but their larger goal is a top-two finish, which will give them two shots at making the final. CSK's defeat against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their last match pushed them to the brink. They not only need to beat GT convincingly to improve their net run rate but also need other results to go their way to remain in contention for the last playoff spot.

The onus will again be on Samson and captain Ruturaj Gaikwad to give CSK a brisk start. No. 3 Urvil Patel, who plays his domestic cricket here, and the middle order will look to make the most of what is expected to be a batting-friendly surface and a fast outfield.

**WEATHER** 38°C

**2** Both teams have won two games against each other of the four played in Ahmedabad. GT won by 5 wickets in 2023 and by 35 runs in 2024 while CSK won by 5 wickets in 2023 & by 83 runs in 2025. —**Stats:** Rajesh Kumar

## 'Can't micro-manage workload and fitness of players during IPL'

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**Mumbai:** BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia has made it clear that the board cannot "micro-manage" players during the Indian Premier League (IPL). "We can't interfere in the functioning of franchises by trying to control player workload and fitness in the IPL," Saikia told **TOI** from Guwahati.

Clarifying the protocol, Saikia said franchises are primarily responsible for managing player fitness, though BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru continues to monitor centrally contracted players and provide workload plans. "There is monitoring but we cannot interfere too much during the IPL," he said.

He added that the board's control is significantly higher in national team scenarios. "We are giving franchises the freedom to take decisions on their players. However, fitness remains a key criterion when it comes to national selection," Saikia said.

The BCCI on Tuesday named Rohit Sharma and Hardik Pandya in the squad for the home series against Afghanistan, subject to fitness clearance. Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah (workload management) and left-arm spin all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja (injury) and Axar Patel have been rested.

## Rohit's ability to stay fit for WC worries BCCI

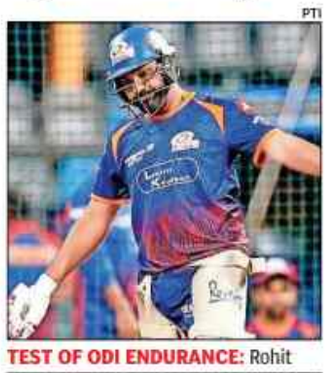
### Selectors Want Time To Prepare Opener's Backup; Hardik's Ability To Bowl 10 Overs Under Scanner

**Arani.Basu**@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** The lead-up to Tuesday's selection meeting was hectic. As the selectors prepared the roadmap for next year's ODI World Cup in South Africa, they were in a quandary over Rohit Sharma and Hardik Pandya's fitness issues. While the duo was eventually picked for the three-match ODI series against Afghanistan subject to fitness, **TOI** has learnt that the BCCI is apprehensive about their ability to play the 50-over format at an optimum level.

It is understood that while the selectors, the team management and BCCI are concerned about Hardik's ability to bowl 10 overs at full tilt, they are more apprehensive about Rohit lasting the distance till the World Cup in Oct-Nov next year. The selectors sought Rohit's fitness reports as he did not play in the IPL for three weeks due to a hamstring injury.

PTI



TEST OF ODI ENDURANCE: Rohit

"Rohit didn't report to the BCCI's centre of excellence (CoE) for those three weeks. He has become lean but there are concerns about his body being able to take the load of high-performance sport. He has to field for 50 overs. ODI cricket doesn't have the option of an Impact Player like IPL. Body takes time to heal when you are so close to turning 40," a BCCI source said.

"Hardik was not communicated about fitness concerns till 48 hours before the selection meeting. He hasn't played for Mumbai Indians since May 2. He complained of back spasms after the game in Chennai but he hasn't played since. He has been reportedly training at the Reliance's facility and at Wankhede stadium. While he has rejoined the team, it is not ascertained how he needs to prove his fitness. The selectors are only worried about him not bowling 10 overs," the source added.

The selectors and team management are getting edgy over Rohit's situation as they need to prepare additional backup openers besides Yashasvi Jaiswal. "There aren't many ODIs before the World Cup. As it is Jaiswal hasn't got enough game time. Ishan has been picked so that he can double up as an opener. But if Rohit fails to make it to the World Cup and either Shubman Gill or Jaiswal gets injured, there needs to be another opener ready," said the source.

As for Hardik, in the first week of January he was not cleared to bowl 10 overs by CoE ahead of the three-match ODI series against New Zealand and hence wasn't picked for the ODIs, since the selectors wanted to preserve him for the T20 World Cup. However, he bowled a 10-over spell for Baroda in a Vijay Hazare Trophy match five days later. The selectors are pinning their hopes on Nitish Kumar Reddy and Harshit Rana playing the roles of medium-pace bowling allrounders.

#### Time for separate parameters for Rohit, Virat?

It is also learnt that the BCCI and team management are trying to move on from the idea that Rohit and Virat Kohli's ODI prospects need to be clubbed together. "At this moment Kohli's fitness and form is better than most cricketers in India. But one has to understand that Kohli and Rohit can't be clubbed together anymore. A firm decision needs to be taken on Rohit after consulting the BCCI medical team," the source said.

It has also been observed that Rohit has not been playing the ultra-aggressive brand of batting since he was relieved of captaincy after the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy. Sources said the team management isn't exactly convinced of this approach.

### GALLERY

#### Duleep trophy from Aug 23

The 2026-27 domestic season will start with the Duleep Trophy from Aug 23 in Bengaluru. Meanwhile the Ranji Trophy will once again be played in two phases with the opening round set to begin from Oct 11.

**India U-19 to tour Sri Lanka:** The India U-19 team will tour Sri Lanka for three youth one dayers and two four day 'Test' matches between July 4 to 23, the SLC announced on Wednesday. The India U-19 team will travel to Hambantota where it will play three 50-over games on July 4, 6 & 9. The first of the two red ball games will be held in Galle from July 13.

**Players plan media protest at French Open:** Players at the French Open are planning to reduce media appearances ahead of the start of the grand slam tournament to complain about their share of prize money. A group have already targeted the upcoming French Open for reducing the players' share of revenue to an alleged 14.3%.

**India enter quarterfinals:** Indian boys trounced China 3-0 to storm into the quarterfinals of the Junior Davis Cup (Under-16) Asia-Oceania Final Qualifying in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, on Wednesday. Tavish Pahwa provided an explosive start with a 6-1, 6-3 thrashing of Junze Wu before Hruthik Katakam put it past Hongjin Qi 6-3, 6-2 in the singles matches. Tavish and Hruthik then combined to to beat Qi and Chuan Ding 6-3, 6-3 in the doubles as India topped Group C with an all-win record.

**Shah makes history for IGPL by qualifying for US Open:** Indian-American golfer Manav Shah scripted a milestone moment for the IGPL after securing a place in the US Open 2026, becoming the first player from this league to qualify for a major.

**Knicks stun Cavs:** The New York Knicks, fueled by 38 points from Jalen Brunson, erased a 22-point fourth-quarter deficit to stun the Cleveland Cavaliers 115-104 in overtime on Monday.

**Southampton appeal against playoff removal:** Southampton had appealed against their expulsion from the Championship playoff final as the punishment was "manifestly disproportionate to every previous sanction in the history of the English game". Southampton great Matthew Le Tissier also weighed into the debate, saying the punishment did not fit the crime.

## Suthar steps into the Jadeja succession story

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**Jaipur:** The search for a long-term heir to Ravindra Jadeja's spin-bowling allrounder role has been a quiet priority for national selectors.

Now, a new name has entered the conversation: Manav Suthar. Suthar's consistent domestic performances have been rewarded with a maiden Test squad call-up for the one-off Test against Afghanistan. The selection makes him the first player from Rajasthan since Pankaj Singh in 2014 to make it to the Test side.

For an admirer of Yuvraj Singh and Ravichandran Ashwin, it is a significant achievement. "It's an unreal feeling," said the Gujarat Titans player from Ahmedabad. "When the news came, I was sitting with Gurnoor (Brar). His name was also there in the squad. We both congratulated each other," he added.

IANS

SPIN HEIR? Manav Suthar

Born in Sriganganagar, a district in northern Rajasthan, the 23-year-old left-arm spinner trains at the SK Bihani Cricket Academy under coach Dheeraj Sharma.

"In 2014, Manav's father brought him to the academy, saying, '*Isko batsman banana* (make him a batsman).' After trials, I told him his son's strength lay in bowling, but that we would work on his batting once his spin-bowling skills develop," Sharma said.

Like most kids starting out in the game, Manav too wanted to bat. "My coach saw me bowl and told me to shift my focus toward spin bowling. That single observation changed my direction and started my career," the young spinner said, adding, "Yuvraj sir is my favorite. When it comes to spin bowling, Ashwin *bhaiya* is my idol. There is so much to learn just by watching him bowl. I actually got the chance to speak with him during the India 'A' tour. He shared a lot of valuable insights with me."

The day Manav's father, Jagdish Kumar, a physical education teacher in a private school, got his son enrolled in the academy, he did not consult his wife. "Her initial reaction was, 'Why? Let him study'. But today she too is proud of him. "Since I am a PT teacher, I was always interested in sports and when I saw my son developing a liking for cricket, I took him to the academy," he said.

## Parul targets double gold at Asian Games

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**New Delhi:** India's leading steeplechaser **Parul Chaudhary** has set her sights on another inspiring campaign at the upcoming Asian Games in Japan, with the 31-year-old aiming not only for podium finishes but also to rewrite her own national record in the women's 3,000m steeplechase.

Parul emerged as one of India's standout performers at the previous Asiad in Hangzhou, where she clinched gold in the women's 5,000m and followed it with a silver in 3,000m steeplechase.

The Meerut-born runner has begun her new season in impressive fashion. Competing at the Shanghai Diamond League, Parul finished seventh in the 3,000m steeplechase with a timing of 9:12.84. The effort left her just 0.38s shy of her own national record of 9:12.46, which she had set while winning silver at the Asian athletics meet in Gumi last year.

"I'm happy to start my season on a strong note. I'll look to improve upon my timing in future events. I'm aiming to break my national record. I was close to doing so in Shanghai and I'm confident of achieving the mark. I'm aiming to win gold in both 3,000m steeplechase and 5,000m at the Asiad," Parul told **TOI**.

Her timing at the DL meet also helped her achieve the Athletics Federation of India's qualification standard for the Aichi-Nagoya Asiad. She has already secured qualification for the Glasgow CWG.

"I'm planning to compete in some good events that will give me more experience in the lead-up to both the multi-sport events," said Parul, who trains at the IIS facility in Bellary. She stressed the importance of fitness and injury prevention. "Remaining injury-free is the most important aspect this season," she said.

## India gets new archery coach for Asiad, Oly

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**New Delhi:** In a move aimed at strengthening India's medal prospects at the upcoming Asian Games and Los Angeles Olympics 2028, former World No. 1 American Dave Cousins has been appointed as the head foreign coach of the country's compound archery team.

Dave has accepted the offer by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and is expected to join the national camp at the SAI centre in Sonepat early next month. The 49-year-old will get a monthly salary package of $12,000 and will remain with the Indian set-up until the LA Games, where compound archery will make its Olympic debut.

Sources said two candidates had applied for the post — former national coach Jiwanjot Singh Teja, and Dave. The archery federation (AAI) and SAI eventually chose the American owing to his coaching experience with the US compound team and modern training methods. During his playing career, Dave won 11 World Championship gold and nine World Cup Stage titles.

#### Lee's salary demands

Meanwhile, negotiations with legendary South Korean coach Kisik Lee for the recurve team have hit a roadblock over his financial demands. Lee has reportedly sought $22,000 for each seven-day coaching stint, amounting to 28 working days annually, along with a monthly retainer fee of $5,000.

He has also declined to stay in India full-time or travel with the team during international events, including the Asiad and LA Olympics, sources said.

Although SAI is willing to offer him a package of $24,000 per month, talks have stalled as officials are reluctant to approve such terms for short-duration assignments.

#### Camp for Asiad in Kurobe

As part of preparations for the Asiad, Indian archers will undertake a 21-day training and exposure camp in Japan's Kurobe city before heading directly to Aichi-Nagoya for the competition. Prior to the overseas camp, the team will train in Shilaroo and Shillong to improve conditioning and acclimatise to Japanese conditions.

Meanwhile, Archery Association of India secretary general Virendra Sachdeva has been nominated as a member of the Commonwealth Games Committee by World Archery.

The committee works towards archery's inclusion in the CWG programme.

# FROM CHOKERS TO WINNERS

## Arteta's Arsenal End 22-Year Wait, Lift EPL Title After Having Ended Runners-Up The Last Three Seasons

**London:** Bukayo Saka said that Arsenal's critics were "not laughing at us anymore" as the club celebrated their first Premier League title in more than two decades.

Gunners players and staff gathered at the club's London Colney training ground on Tuesday to watch closest challengers Manchester City draw 1-1 away to Bournemouth - a result which gave Arsenal an unassailable four-point lead at the top of the table with just Sunday's final round of matches remaining.

As the Arsenal squad relished the club's first Premier League title since 2004, there were also joyous scenes at the north London side's Emirates Stadium, where thousands of supporters gathered to mark the occasion by lighting fireworks and flares.

Arsenal, runners-up in the league for the previous three seasons, had faced accusations of "bottling" their title bid, with several observers questioning their temperament and ability to handle pressure following a 2-1 defeat at City on April 19. But while City subsequently drew at Everton and then at Bournemouth, Arsenal won their next four league games without conceding a goal.

Arsenal's success meant Gunners boss Mikel Arteta joined a select group who've won English titles both as a player and manager.

Arteta, who rejoined Arsenal as manager in December 2019 with the club in dire straits, installed a blacked-out Premier League trophy at Colney which would light up only when the Gunners won the title

"Light that up," Saka said in footage posted by defender Jurrien Timber on his Instagram account. "Let me tell you something. Twenty-two years, 22 years. there was laughing, there was joking, they're not laughing anymore," the England international added. "Look, it is going to be shining, it is going to be shining bright."

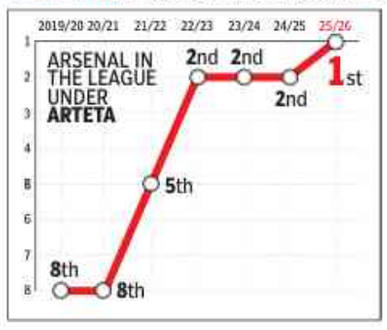
In an Instagram post, this time on Saka's channel, Arsenal's Myles Lewis-Skelly was seen holding a champagne bottle. "They called us bottlers," said Lewis-Skelly who, like Saka, came through the club's Hale End Academy youth system. "And now we're holding the bottle."

Former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger featured in a celebratory post put out by his old side. The Frenchman, who won three Premier League titles with the Gunners, including the 2004 'Invincibles', said: "You did it. Champions go on when others stop. This is your time. Now, go on and enjoy every moment."

Arsenal will be presented with the Premier League trophy on Sunday. AFP

Pix: Reuters, AP

**OVER THE LINE:** Manager Mikel Arteta (left) and set-piece coach Nicolas Jover; Club great Ian Wright (right, in red) with fans on Tuesday




### EPL TOP TWO

| | P | W | D | L | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arsenal | 37 | 25 | 7 | 5 | 82 |
| Man City | 37 | 23 | 9 | 5 | 78 |

**8,060** Number of days it took for Arsenal to be EPL champions again.

**14** Only Liverpool and Man Utd (20) have won more English top-flight titles than Arsenal (14), while no side has won it in more different decades than the Gunners (8).

**Pep doesn't deny exit rumours**
How City will look going forward is a big question, with Enzo Maresco considered the front-runner to replace Guardiola. The future of City's greatest manager overshadowed the buildup to the Bournemouth draw after 10 years at the club. "I should talk with my chairman first," Pep said. "After that, when I talk with my chairman, we will decide."

### GUNNERS' DREAM SEASON

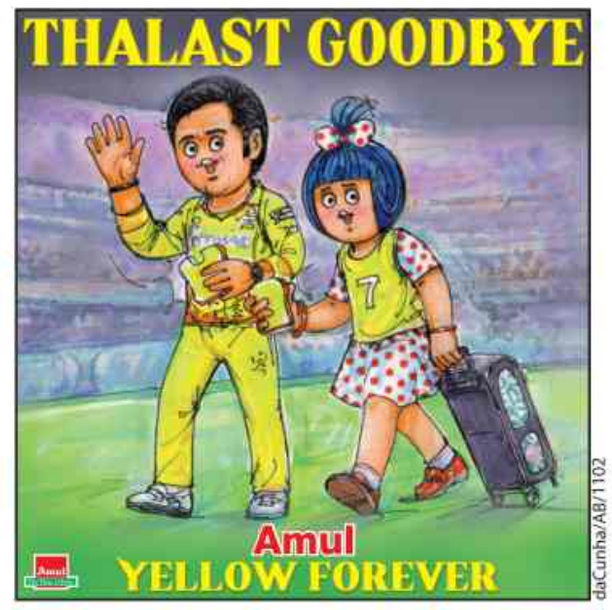
**The key factors as they finally got over the line after 3 seasons as runners-up.**

**Reliable Raya:** For the third consecutive year David Raya won the Golden Glove for most clean sheets (19) in the Premier League, but this has been the Spaniard's best season yet since joining from Brentford in 2023.

**'Set piece FC':** More than 40% of the Gunners' Premier League goals this season have come from dead balls. Of their 28 goals from set pieces, 18 have come from corners to set a new single-season Premier League record.

**Dynamo Declan:** Rice has amassed more than 4,000 minutes in all competitions in a tireless effort to deliver the title for Arsenal.

**Strength in depth:** Injuries played a ruinous role in Arsenal's failed pursuit of Liverpool last season. The decision to invest heavily in bulking out Arteta's squad paid off despite many injuries. AFP




# Seniors deserve place in team: Jamil

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**Panaji:** The India probables for Unity Cup in London and tri-nation tournament in Tajikistan raised a few eyebrows. While many would have expected **Khalid Jamil** to wipe the slate clean with India missing out on the AFC Asian Cup 2027, the chief coach resisted the temptation.

Instead, he played it safe, sticking with almost the same group that defeated Hong Kong in March for their first win in the qualifiers. The seniors were all around, but it's the presence of four uncapped players that caught everyone's attention.

**FOOTBALL**

Mumbai City winger PN Noufal, Punjab FC defender Pramveer Singh and midfielder Ricky Shabong were all rewarded for their impressive performances in the Indian Super League (ISL). Suhail Ahmad Bhat, who hasn't had a single minute in the top-tier league this season, found favour for his goals with the India under-23 team.

"I didn't want to make too many changes all at once," Jamil told TOI over a video call. "There was a problem with the league since it started late (and there were just 13 matches for each team), so I thought it was not the right time (to make changes). It's better to take some time for a rebuild. Those who did well in ISL, we need to give them chances. It's also good to have a mix of seniors and juniors. Once these (two) assignments are over, we will make some changes."

While introducing new faces — not all of whom will make the final squad — Jamil has kept faith in senior players. It was, in the words of the coach, a decision guided by merit.

"In seniors like Sandesh (Jhingan), Rahul (Bheke), Gurpreet (Singh Sandhu), the desire is still there. They are hungry. You can't do injustice to them and leave them out. They are regulars for their clubs, not missing any games, unless it's injury or suspension. I don't want to disturb the team too much. Step by step, we have to move ahead," said Jamil.

India will travel to England later this month and debut at the Unity Cup, a tournament that features nations with large communities in the UK. They've been drawn to face Jamaica (ranked 71) in the semifinal. Should they pass the hurdle, they could meet powerhouse Nigeria (ranked 26) in the final. Jamil's side will also feature in a tri-nation tournament in Tajikistan during the June international window.

# Like an old flame, a forgotten but familiar feeling returns

## Supporting Arsenal Was Once Something Of An Avant-Garde Indulgence. Till It Wasn't As Arsenal Fell By The Wayside, Edged Out By English Football's New Order. It's Been A Long Wait Since...

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Getty Images

In the late 1990s, the 1998 World Cup suddenly created a weird void for an early-20s football fan who wasn't exactly a Brazil diehard. Instead, two European artists - Zinedine Zidane and Dennis Bergkamp - seduced you to fall in love with them that summer and '*dil maange* more' was the standard catch-phrase for the insatiable soul.

Back then, Zizou was at Juventus and Serie A, still the toughest league in the world football at that time, wasn't live on TV. Bergkamp, though, was more easily 'available'. The Dutch playmaker was part of an Arsenal team that had won the Premier League under a French intellectual playing the beautiful game with a beauty that was alien to English football, and it instantly struck a chord.

Through 1998-99, a 19-game unbeaten run, Bergkamp's innumerable line-breakers and then a late-season heartbreak with Manchester United winning the league by one point - it was a perfect platform for football tragics, those who didn't mind the so-close-yet-so-far storyline. But what started off as Bergkamp-stalking soon became an obsession once Arsene Wenger procured a new French lieutenant into the Arsenal stable in 1999. Thierry Henry's arrival at Highbury wasn't instant success, that was still the era of United but there was promise. As United jammed your eardrums with the noise of Fergie-time success, the magic touch of the French troika - Henry, Robert Pires and Patrick Viera (and briefly, a moody but razor-sharp Nicolas Anelka) created a symphony that lingered through days and nights.

And then came 2004. While we keep talking about the glitter of the 'Invincibles' led by a magnificent Henry, that history-scripting season's most crucial aspect of was 'zero' defeats by the Gunners. Arsenal's backline let in only 26 goals — the same number that they have let over 37 games this season. Jens Lehmann, Ashley Cole, Kolo Toure, Sol Campbell, Fredrik Ljungberg, these were the men Wenger looked at to provide the steel. Just the way it was this season with David Raya, Declan Rice, William Saliba, Gabriel, Martin Zubimendi.

It is perhaps this steel that had slowly gone missing from Arsenal once the euphoria of 2004 ebbed. They were still often brilliant - a fine Champions League final run in 2006 being proof - but the likes of United, Chelsea and consequently Man City took over the reins of EPL.

There were seasons in between when Arsenal were competitive with hope soaring through winter. But as spring arrived, it all melted. By then Highbury was history, replaced by Emirates, but that once little soft-corner did push you to take the long tube rides from Oval or St John's Wood to Arsenal when you were on cricket reporting duty in London.

But, by now, there was that acceptance that Arsenal don't win. Over the last three years, under Mikel Arteta, they have been serious contenders, but you would laugh off the chances during football conversations with the standard line: "Let March come".

This year too, it threatened to be the same. Till it wasn't. But that exuberance of being 28 has been replaced by the mellow light of 50, and it just felt good to be awake at 2:30 am, savouring a moment that you believed didn't exist anymore.

## SNAP SHOTS

### Rowers target Asiad gold

India's top rowers Balraj Panwar and Babu Lal Yadav exuded confidence of ending the country's long wait for Asian Games gold medals in rowing at this year's showpiece event in Japan after falling short of the top prize in the previous edition. India has won two rowing gold medals at the Asian Games -- in Guangzhou 2010 and Jakarta 2018 -- while the team returned with five medals, including two silver and three bronze, from the 2023 Asiad.

**Gogia prevails:** India's Dhairya Gogia shocked Hong Kong's Tse Ka Chun in the first round of the boys' U-13 section at the Asian Junior Squash Championships in China on Wednesday. Gogia recorded a 12-10, 10-12, 11-7, 11-7 win over Chun.

**Aida stays on course:** Aida Thimmaiah scored a gritty one-over 66 to stay ahead of the field on the second day of the IGU Maharashtra Ladies & Junior Girls Golf Championship in Mumbai on Wednesday. The 12-year-old took her two-day aggregate to even-par 130 for a one-shot lead over Yogya Bhalla. **Leading scores (Ladies, A & B): 130:** Aida Thimmaiah (64, 66); **131:** Yogya Bhalla (65, 66); **134:** Janneya A Dasanniee (69, 65); **135:** Ayesha Gupta (66, 69); **136:** Ceerat Kang (69, 67). Cat 'C' (11-12): **146:** Vidushi Singh (76, 70); **149:** Aashna Amogha (71, 78); **150:** Nandini Rathee (72, 78).

**Vihaan vaults to the top:** Vihaan Jain shot an even-par 72 to open up a three-shot lead over fellow Haryana golfer Prince Bainsla (74) in Category 'A' (15-17 years) on the second day of the IGU Southern India Junior Boys Golf Championship in Coimbatore. **Leading scores: Cat 'A': 147:** Vihaan Jain (75, 72); **150:** Prince Bainsla (76, 74); 151: Nilofer Sivamoorthy (77, 74). **Cat 'B' (13-14): 154:** Chaitanya Pandey (79, 75); **159:** Saatvic Kumar Singh (81, 78); 160: Jaibir Singh Kang (83, 77). **Cat 'C' (11-12): 160:** Drona Singh Dhull (83, 77); **168:** Shan Alvi (82, 86); 169: Vivaan Shailesh Kudale (89, 80), Vivaan Singh (87, 82).

**Nidhi, Yatish to lead state teams:** Harshan Yatish and Nidhi Umesh will lead the State boys and girls teams in the Junior National Basketball Championship to be held in Puducherry from May 22. **The squads: Boys:** Harshan Yatish (capt), Divith Shenava (vice capt), Samarath Mannur, Devcharan J, Vaibhav Gowda HM, Sanket Praveen, Vijayeendra V, Anshul Sai, Mohammed Arshad, Anish Ayappan, Saathvik Siddhartha, Adithya Vittal Shenoi. Coaches: Umashankar BC, Sachin Belvadi. Manager: Rajive MV.. **Girls:** Nidhi Umesh (capt), Shravani Shivanna (vice capt), Nilaya Reddy, Deepika PP, Appoorva, Nireeksha BC, Purvi Shika, Hanisha S Shinde, Aadya Vijay, Jeyashree C, Lavanya Gowda CS, Swathi Prabhu. Coaches: Jayavanthi Shyam, Sathyanaryana K. Manager: Bhavana R.

**Ishan stars for Raman SA:** Ishan Maadhavan scored a double to power Raman Sports Academy to a 5-1 win over RT Nagar Hebbal in the KSFA 'C' Division League football championship on Wednesday. **Results: North Zone: Group A:** Raman SA 5 (Ishan 9, 23, Pavan 55, Namish Verama 30+1, Jai Guru Dev 56) bt RT Nagar Hebbal 1 (Adran 58); Samant SA 1 (SriKrishnan 15) bt Balaharka FC Bangalore 0; GRK FC Youth Club 2 (Sahil MS 33, Prashanth 60) bt Bangalore North FC 1 (Manjunath 40). **Group B:** Gopalan FC 2 (David 13, Darshan 43) bt Stadium FC 0; Alchemy Intl FA 8 (Vedanth 7, MD Mustofa 10, 32, KS Raksan 38, Laishram 41, 55, Arvin 42, CH Paoginlen Mate 52) bt Chitradurga FC 0; Samba FC 4 (Karan Taparia 19, 22, Shivanesh 43, Merwin 60) bt Hawks United Academy 0.

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## ISL season set for grand finale

**Kolkata:** A multi-team battle for the ISL title is set for a dramatic finale with five sides — including Mohun Bagan and East Bengal FC— mathematically remaining in contention heading into the last round matches on Thursday. With the shortened season producing one of the closest title races in recent years, all eyes will be on simultaneous fixtures involving Punjab, Mumbai City, East Bengal and Mohun Bagan. East Bengal are currently in pole position to win the title. PTI

## WHAT'S AT STAKE

**FINAL-DAY FIXTURES**

| | |
|---|---|
| Inter Kashi vs East Bengal FC — Venue: Kishore Bharati Stadium | Mohun Bagan SG vs SC Delhi — Venue: Salt Lake Stadium |
| Jamshedpur FC vs Odisha FC — Venue: JRD Tata Sports Complex) | Punjab FC vs Mumbai City — Venue: Nehru Stadium, Delhi) |

All matches to kick off simultaneously at 7.30pm

| TEAM | POINTS | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|
| EAST BENGAL | 23 | 28 | 10 |
| MOHUN BAGAN | 23 | 21 | 8 |
| PUNJAB FC | 22 | 18 | 10 |
| MUMBAI CITY | 22 | 15 | 9 |
| JAMSHEDPUR FC | 21 | 15 | 10 |

NB: Bengaluru FC, having already completed their campaign with 23 points and currently placed 3rd, are out of reckoning for the title race.
GF: Goals for; GA: Goals against

# Sasikumar is India's last hope in singles

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**Bengaluru:** On a day when three Indians crashed out in the second round of the SM Krishna Memorial Open, Mukund Sasikumar kept the host nation's hopes alive with a comfortable win here on Wednesday. He defeated Japanese qualifier Taiyo Yamanaka 6-4, 7-6 (1) to reach the quarterfinals of the tournament. However, Kriish Tyagi, Manish Sureshkumar, and Sidharth Rawat went out.

**TENNIS**

Sasikumar, ranked No. 536 in the ATP rankings, produced an all-round performance against Yamanaka in a contest that lasted one hour and 53 minutes. The 29-year-old was broken just once and served solidly throughout.

The opening set remained evenly contested, with both players holding serve through the first nine games. Sasikumar then earned a break in the tenth to take the set 6-4. A similar pattern unfolded in the second set, with both players holding serve through the opening six games. After five deuces, Yamanaka finally secured a break in the seventh game to move ahead 4-3.

Syed Asif

**TOP SHOW:** Ilya Ivashka in action against Manish Sureshkumar

The Japanese extended his advantage after Sasikumar committed two unforced errors and dropped his serve. However, the Indian fought back strongly to force a tie-break. Sasikumar, who beat eighth seed Maximus Jones of Thailand in the first round, dominated the tie-break racing to a 6-1 lead before sealing the match with an ace. He will next meet second-seeded Englishman Alastair Gray in the quarterfinals.

Elsewhere, wildcard Kriish Tyagi — a semifinalist at last week's Karnataka Open — suffered a 6-4, 4-6, 3-6 loss to Hamish Stewart. It was a revenge for the Brit, who lost to the Indian last week. Meanwhile, Manish Sureshkumar, who had stunned top seed Keegan Smith in the opening round, was outclassed by Belarusian Ilya Ivashka 1-6, 1-6. Rawat also exited after a 3-6, 1-6 defeat to sixth-seeded Serbian Ognjen Milic. **Results:** Mukund Sasikumar (Ind) bt Taiyo Yamanaka (Jpn) 6-4, 7-6 (1); Alastair Gray (Gbr) bt Dominik Palan (Cze) 6-3, 7-6 (2); Ilya Ivashka bt Manish Sureshkumar (Ind) 6-1, 6-1; Hamish Stewart (Gbr) bt Kriish Tyagi (Ind) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3; Alex Hernandez (Mex) bt Naoya Honda (Jpn) 5-7, 7-5, 6-4; Mitsuki Leong (Mas) bt Yusuke Takahashi (Jpn) 6-3, 6-2; Ognjen Milic (Srb) bt Sidharth Rawat (Ind) 6-3, 6-1; Petr Bar Biryukov bt Leo Vithoontien (Jpn) 7-6 (4), 6-4.

# Spartons in quarters

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**KSCA INTER-CLUB**

**Bengaluru:** Spartons SC rode on a well-crafted unbeaten partnership between Ryan Tomar and Vikrant Budala to register a commanding 10-wicket win over Visweswarapuram CC (1) in the pre-quarterfinals of the KSCA U-16 inter-club tournament here recently.

Opting to bat, Visweswarapuram CC (1) were restricted to 160 in 46 overs. Spartons SC's opening pair chased down the target in 40 overs, with Ryan finishing on 59 and Vikrant Budala remaining unbeaten on 86.

**Brief scores: Visweswarapuram CC (1): 160 all out in 45.4 overs** (Sanjit Sathish 50, Ameya Nayak 36; Shwetansh RK 3-29, Vivaan Singh 3-33) **lost to Spartons SC: 161 for no loss in 40 overs** (Ryan Tomar 59 n.o, Vikrant Budala 86 n.o).

**Vultures CC: 160/4 in 33 overs** (Aaryan Nagesh 57, Akhieera Allan 55 n.o; Pratyush Alamuru 3-31) **lost to Engrades CC: 164/6 in 31.3 overs** (Samvit Shastri 50, Gnanesh Subramani 30, Tarun Rajesh 26 n.o; Aaryan Nagesh 3-31). (Start delayed due to wet outfield, was revised to 33 overs per side)

**City Gymkhana: 275/2 in 49 overs** (Arnav Manchale 62, Sachith Shetty 103 n.o (129b; 7x4), Siddharth HS 77) **bt Vivekanagar Cricketers: 166 all out in 44.1 overs** (Shishir 33, Sachit Galatagi 30, Likhith Jadhav 51 n.o; Tarun M 3-52, Tejas Bhat 3-21).

**Social Cricketers: 136 all out in 35.1 overs** (Athreya Bhat 49; Arnav Ravindra Dere 2-21, Kushal KA 2-27) **lost to Rajajinagar Cricketers: 137/2 in 19.1 overs** (Prabhav Pydah 38, Debraj Nandi 43, Niranjan Ashok 47 n.o).

**Jayanagar United Cricketers: 159 all out in 38.2 overs** (Trishaan Sethi 44, Kushaal Krishna 36; Vikram 2-46, Viaan Joshi 2-29, Saurjyesh Das 2-14, Vishist PJ 2-13) **lost to Bangalore SC: 162/5 in 34.1 overs** (Vineet Patil 39, Tanshh Krishna 38, Viaan Joshi 46 n.o; Adhyay 3-43).

**Vijaya CC: 224 all out in 46.3 overs** (Hruthik Kumar 41, Ahaan Dash 52, Yuvaan Porwal 32, Paarth Madan 54; Usman Shareef 3-31, Jeevan G 3-40) **lost to Young Lions Club: 228/8 in 49.4 overs** (Deekshith Gowda 40, Vaibhav Shetty 24, Kushal Gowda 66, Raunak Singh 31; Shashank Bannatti 2-41, Prayag Bijesh 3-25, Paarth Madan 2-43).

**RVCE Gymkhana: 204 all out in 49.3 overs** (Aarush Puthran 33, Avaneesha SN 45, Skandha Shetty 29; Souhard B 2-37, Naksh CM 2-27, Piyush Raj 3-30) **bt Bangalore United CC (1):** 177 all out in 45.3 overs (Lakshmi Narayan 29, Aarav Bajaj 66; Ujwal Krishna 2-17, Viswajeet Jadhav 3-25, Chirayu Vishesh 4-31).

**Blue Diamond Cricketers: 168 all out in 49.2 overs** (Siddharth Narayan 38; Shravan Reddy 3-23, Arav Vijay 2-21, Saketh Hoskere 3-18) **lost to Herons CC: 169/2 in 30.5 overs** (Ashwwath Nagarajan 27, Noraj V 81, P Yateesh 46 n.o).

# Dhruv, D'Mello shine in Vijaya's win

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Dhruv Prabhakar laid the foundation for Vijaya Cricket Club's 197-run win against Crescent Cricket Club (1) in the KSCA YS Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy One-Day tournament here recently.

Electing to bat, Vijaya CC piled up 335/4 with Dhruv scoring an unbeaten 158-ball 186. He was ably supported by Samit Dravid, who contributed 59. Left-arm spinner Nathan D'Mello and Sachin Shinde (3/33) did not allow the Crescent batters to settle down and bowled them out for 138. D'Mello returned 5 for 26.

**Brief scores: Vijaya CC: 335/4 in 50 overs** (Tusar Singh 62, Dhruv Prabhakar 186 n.o (158b,16x4, 9x6), Samit Dravid 59; Shahid Ali 2-67) **bt Crescent CC (1): 138 in 24.3 overs** (Anoop Gandhi 26; Nathan D'Mello 5-26, Sachin Shinde 3-33).

**Malleswaram Gymkhana: 123 in 37.4 overs** (Vishwa S 2-30, Sachith Shenoy 2-36, Shivaprasad S 2-16, Siddesh Asalkar 3-10) **lost to Friends Union CC (2): 127/2 in 20.2 overs** (Siddesh 38, Amey VH 57 n.o).

**Jayanagar Cricketers: 226 in 49.1 overs** (Rithvik H 61, Sourab Muttur 57, Younus Ali Baig 44; Janardhan R 2-39, Manjunath 4-28, Prasanna G 2-43) **bt National United CC: 122 in 35.4 overs** (Yeshwanth 27; Suhas Purushotham 3-20, Sheetal Kumar 3-22). **Jawans CC: 330 in 50 overs** (Karthik SU 75, Arya Gowda 31, Harshil 93, Pratheek 74; Yaseer Naikwadi 6-50) **bt Jolly Cricketers: 216 in 45.3 overs** (Chirag Harsha 59, Sarfaraz Ashraf 42, Jayesh Babu 57; Dheeraj Gowda 2-38, Dhakshath P 5-38).

**Minerva CC: 128 in 30.4 overs** (Shaurya NS 25; Aditya Mani 2-26, Jayanth MR 3-19, Kushal Pramesh 3-36, Surendra Rathore 2-28) **lost to Herons CC: 129/2 in 15.3 overs** (Prajwal Pavan 90 n.o). **Bangalore Indian CC: 102 in 36 overs** (Ashwin Tantry 54 n.o; Piyush Praful 3-26, Abhishek R 2-19, Aravind JP 3-21) **lost to Wilson Garden CC: 105/ 3 in 18.3 overs** (Nithin R 42 n.o., Akshay Kamath 33, Aravind JP n.o; Achyut Sudarsan 3-27). **Rajajinagar Cricketers: 255 in 49.3 over**s (Pranav Bhatia 50, Chandrashekar Shastre 65, Santhosh S 27 n.o; Dheeganth Mavinkere 3-56, Mohammed Arshan 3-44) **bt City Gymkhana: 184 in 46.3 overs** (Vismai PM 34, Siddhanth Smaran 30, Prabhav Pydah 33, Vinod T 56; Pranav 3-31, Karna Surya Vamshi 2-12, Shivakumar BU 2-19).

**YSR MEMORIAL**

**Whirlwind Cricketers: 118 in 29.5 overs** (Nihal Gowda 34, Shiva Rakshith 39, Ajay Bhide 2-16, Pradyumna AN 3-19, Abhishek HP 2-30, Kuldeep Purohit 2-31) **lost to Chintamani SA: 122/3 in 11.3 overs** (Aaron Christie 73)

**Vijaya CC, Malur: 354/9 in 50 overs** (Rohan Kadam 114 (99b; 11x4; 3x6), Vijayka 37, Udgeet Nandan 30, Suraj D 65, Madhu Sudhan 36, Zeeshan Ali 35; Advait Sathaye 2-69, Kannayan S 3-37) **bt Chamarajpet CC: 251/8 in 50 overs** (Shiva Kumar 109 (74b; 8x4;8x6), Aktilesh V 31, Aarnav Verma 48 n.o; Sujith 3-33, Angadraj Hittalamani 2-34).

**Friends Union CC (1): 347/9 in 50 overs** (Adarsh Manure 45, Shivratana 102 (126; 15x4), Aashish Mahesh 131 (75b; 11x4; 8x6); Manoj M 2-64, Yuvraj R 2-74, Varun J 2-48) **bt Bangalore SC: 120 in 28.2 overs** (Darshan S 41, Varun J 33; Dhruv Vasu 5-27).

**Young Lions Club: 141 in 40.5 overs** (Nikhil 30, Adithya AG 29; Rohan N 2-27, Omkar HR 2-22, Koushik Amruth 2-12, Macneil Noronha 3-22) **lost to Cambridge CC: 142/5 in 21.1 overs** (Macneil 34, Gourav K 52 n.o, Dheeraj Yadav 5-34). **Jayanagar United Cricketers: 142 in 39.1 overs** (Sudhanva K 25, Sunil Kaushikgt 33, Rishabh Dhariwal 25, Ismail Mohtesham 2-45, Prajwal Gowda 2-18, Shashank Reddy M 3-37) **lost to Neptune CC: 145/4 in 21.4 overs** (Ved P 34, Adarsh Patil 56 n.o; Harshith Lokesh 3-51).

**Cavaliers CC: 154 in 32 overs** (Akash Kulkarni 35, Mokhit KS 61; Vineeth Manjunath 4-26, Kaustubh KS 3-7) **lost to RVCE Gymkhana: 155/9 in 34.5 overs** (Adarsh Rangappa 29, Praneel GM 47; Chandrakanth Shetty 2-28, Mayank Borwanker 3-22, Bhuvan Gowda 2-28).

**Zodiac CC: 111 in 31.4 overs** (Chandrashekar G 53; Kedarnath Todakar 2-11, Vikas MN 2-11, Ananth Prasad 2-4, Sanjay Raja 2-11) **lost to Hammonds CC: 112/9 in 28 overs** (Sanjay 32, Satyam Goudar 30; Shoheb Pasha 3-45, Gnane 2-21, Kuhan Kumar S 2-15).

**Century Cricketers: 325/8 in 50 overs** (Harsha Khuba 26, Anirudh Srinivas 88, Rohit RV 100 n.o (95b; 10x4), Madhav Bajaj 36, Pradyumna AU 2-75, Yashmith Gowda 3-59) **bt Magadi CC: 226 in 45 overs** (Vijay Subramanya 129 (138b; 20x4), Sachin AM 31; Tanish Mahesh 2-40, Ignatius Sebastian 2-47, Karthik CA 3-18).

# Lakshya and Prannoy out

**Kuala Lumpur:** India's Malvika Bansod, Ashmita Chaliha and **Devika Sihag** emerged as the lone bright spots on an otherwise disappointing day for the country at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 here, advancing to the women's singles second round with contrasting wins on Wednesday.

Malvika beat Germany's world No. 52 Yvonne Li 21-17, 16-21, 21-9, while Ashmita registered a 21-16, 21-13 win over Indonesia's world No. 56

**BADMINTON**

Thalita Ramadhani Wiryawan. Devika Sihag saw off Park Ga Eun of Korea 19-21, 21-18, 21-19.

In men's singles, eighth seed Lakshya Sen crashed out after a shock 17-21, 11-21 defeat to Indonesia's Moh. Zaki Ubaidillah. HS Prannoy too bowed out after a marathon battle against Japan's sixth seed Kodai Naraoka, losing 17-21, 22-20, 22-24, while Kiran George retired after trailing 15-21, 1-6 against France's seventh seed Alex Lanier. PTI

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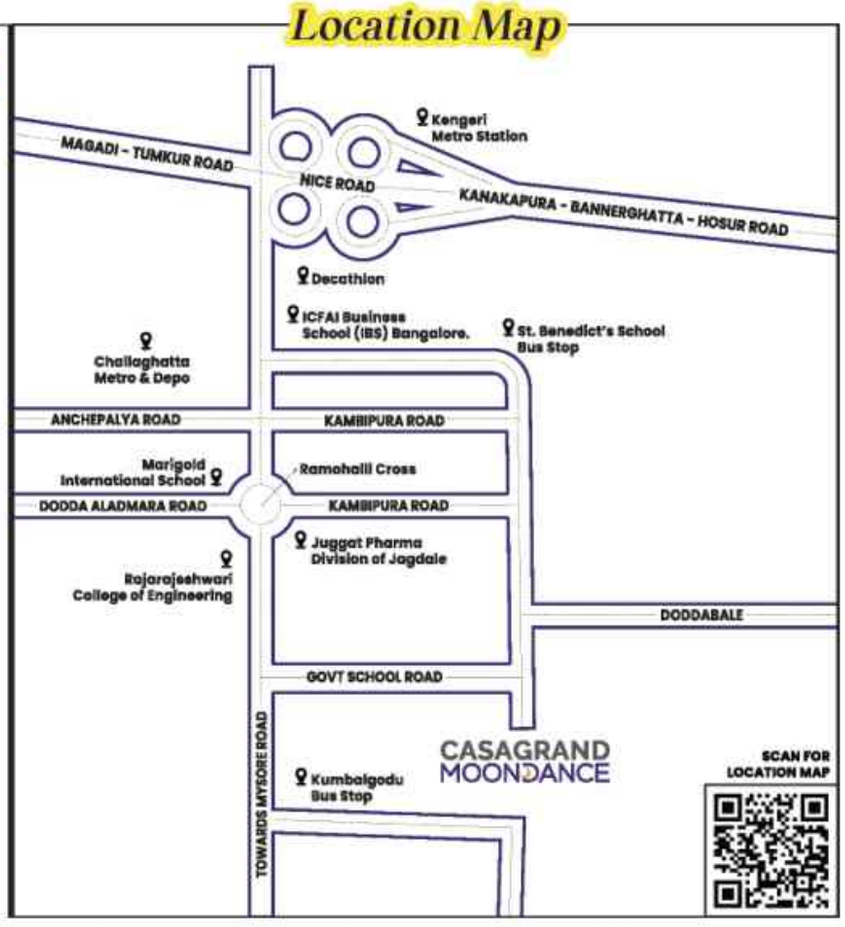


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# TIMES GLOBAL

** THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026


LET THE BEAUTY OF WHAT YOU LOVE BE WHAT YOU DO
— RUMI

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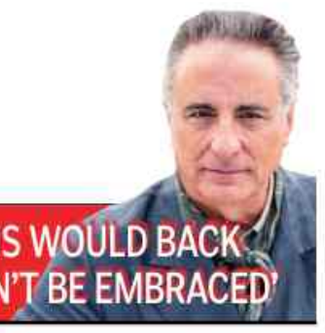


HAVANA-BORN ANDY GARCIA SAYS MAJORITY OF CUBANS WOULD BACK INTERVENTION TO OVERTHROW GOVT: 'REPRESSION CAN'T BE EMBRACED'

## Israel takes step toward snap polls as Knesset votes to dissolve

**Jerusalem:** Israel moved closer on Wednesday to a snap election after lawmakers gave an initial nod to dissolve parliament, with opinion polls showing PM Benjamin Netanyahu would lose the first national vote since the 2023 Hamas attacks. Lawmakers voted almost unanimously for an early ballot in a preliminary reading of a bill to disband the 120-seat Knesset. If it receives final approval, a process that could take weeks, Israel could hold an election several weeks ahead of an Oct 27 deadline.

Netanyahu's own coalition submitted the bill to dissolve parliament after an ultra-orthodox faction traditionally close to the Israeli PM accused him of failing to deliver on a promise to pass a law exempting their community members from mandatory military service. Some 110 members of parliament voted in favour of the bill to dissolve, with no opponents or abstentions.

The vote comes at a pivotal time for Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister. Israel has been at war with Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon and Iran. Netanyahu still faces a long-running corruption trial. Netanyahu's health could also be an issue. He recently disclosed that he was successfully treated for prostate cancer and in 2023 he was fitted with a pacemaker. REUTERS

# Trump says talks with Iran in final stages, warns of attacks

### US Plotting To Restart War, Will Retaliate With Strikes Beyond West Asia: Tehran

**Dubai/Washington:** US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that negotiations with Iran were "in the final stages", while warning of further attacks unless Tehran agrees to a peace deal.

Six weeks since Trump paused Operation Epic Fury for a ceasefire, talks to end the war have shown little progress. Trump said this week he came close to ordering more attacks, but held off to allow time for negotiations. "We're in the final stages of Iran. We'll see what happens. Either have a deal or we're going to do some things that are a little bit nasty, but hopefully that won't happen," he told reporters. "Ideally I'd like to see few people killed, as opposed to a lot. We can do it either way."

Speaking later at the US Coast Guard Academy, Trump reprised his either/or rhetoric — "We may have to hit them very hard... but maybe not" — and reiterated his determination not to allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon.

Tehran, for its part, accused Trump of plotting to restart the war, and threatened to retaliate for any strikes with attacks beyond West Asia.

"If aggression against Iran is repeated, the promised regional war will extend beyond the region this time," the Revolutionary Guards said in a statement. Parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Iran's top peace negotiator, said in an audio message on social media that "obvious and hidden moves by the enemy" showed the Americans were preparing new attacks.

In the latest diplomatic push, the interior minister of Pakistan — which hosted the only round of peace talks so far and has since been the conduit for messages between the sides — was in Tehran on Wednesday. Iran submitted a new offer to the US this week.

Reuters

Vessels sail through the Strait of Hormuz in Musandam, Oman

### Iran jailed football team's ex-goalkeeper after anti-Khamenei post, says his wife

**Paris:** Iran has jailed a former goalkeeper for the national men's football team after he published earlier this year a post deeply critical of then-supreme leader Ali Khamenei, his wife said. The Mizan news agency of the Iranian judiciary confirmed that Mohammad Rashid Mazaheri was under arrest but said he had been detained after seeking to illegally cross the border.

The player had in Feb published a since-deleted Instagram post in which he described Khamenei as "only a dark and passing chapter" in Iran's history. The post came after Jan mass protests but before the start of the US-Israeli war against Iran. The Persian-language news site IranWire, which is based outside Iran, said Mazaheri's home had been raided on Feb 25. His wife Maryam Abdollahi wrote on Instagram on Tuesday that her husband was now being held "in very harsh solitary confinement" in Urmia in northwestern Iran. AFP

#### China tankers cross strait

Two giant Chinese tankers laden with a total of around 4 million barrels of oil exited the strait on Wednesday. Iran had announced last week that it had reached agreement to ease rules for Chinese ships. South Korea's foreign minister said on Wednesday a Korean tanker was crossing the strait in cooperation with Iran. Shipping monitor Lloyd's List said at least 54 ships had transited the strait last week. Iran said 26 ships had crossed in the past 24 hours.

#### Report: US lost 42 aircraft, MQ-9 Reaper drones in war

At least 42 US aircraft, including fighter jets and drones, were lost or damaged during Operation Epic Fury, according to the Congressional Research Service report. It includes four F-15E Strike Eagle fighter jets, one F-35A Lightning II fighter aircraft, one A-10 Thunderbolt II ground-attack aircraft, seven KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refuelling aircraft, one E-3 Sentry AWACS aircraft, two MC-130J Commando II special operations aircraft, one HH-60W Jolly Green II helicopter, 24 MQ-9 Reaper drones and one MQ-4C Triton drone. AGENCIES

## US, Israel planned Ahmadinejad to take over as Iran prez in op: Report

**Washington:** The US and Israel were considering installing hardliner **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** as the president of Iran as part of the plans for regime change in the Persian Gulf nation in the early days of the war, according to a media report. Former Iranian President Ahmadinejad, known for his anti-Israel, anti-America views, was consulted by the US and Israel as they drew up war plans targeting Iran, NYT reported.

However, Ahmadinejad was injured in an Israeli strike on the first day of the war and soon became disillusioned with the plan for regime change, the report said, quoting US officials. It said the Israeli strike at Ahmadinejad's residence in Tehran was intended to free him from house arrest.

Known for his frequent calls to "wipe Israel off the map" during his presidency from 2005-13, Ahmadinejad had become critical of the Iranian rulers, accusing them of corruption. He has been placed under house arrest for the past few years.

An associate of Ahmadinejad confirmed that Ahmadinejad saw the strike at his residence as an attempt to free him. Ahmadinejad's associate suggested that the US saw him as similar to Delcy Rodriguez, who took over in Venezuela after American forces seized Nicolas Maduro and has since worked closely with the Trump administration, the associate said. PTI

# Xi and Putin unite in criticism of US, but fail to clinch gas deal

**Beijing:** China and Russia condemned US President Donald Trump's Golden Dome missile defence shield plans and Washington's "irresponsible" nuclear policy at a joint summit on Wednesday, a week after President Xi Jinping hosted Trump in Beijing.

The joint statement with Russian President Vladimir Putin served to underline that, while Xi seeks stable and constructive relations with Trump, he differs fundamentally with him on key issues where China's position is closely aligned with Russia's.

The statement said Trump's plan for a ground- and space-based missile interceptor system threatened global strategic stability and criticised Washington over the expiry of the treaty restricting US and Russian nuclear arsenals. The treaty lapsed in Feb and Trump did not respond to Moscow's proposal to extend it by a year, after some US politicians argued that Washington needed to grow its arsenal to counter China, which says its build-up is far smaller.

Russia and China also said in a joint declaration that attempts by some countries to dominate global affairs in the spirit of the colonial era had failed but that the world was in danger of a return to the "law of the jungle". "The global situation is becoming more complex," they said in a declaration released by the Kremlin in Russian.

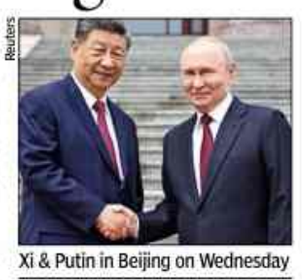
Yet while speaking in unison on global security issues, the two presidents failed to reach a breakthrough that Moscow has long been seeking — a contract for a new pipeline that would enable it to more than double the amount of natural gas it sells to China.

Xi and Putin both stressed the closeness of the Russia-China ties that they sealed in 2022 with the signing of a strategic partnership treaty. Moscow had signalled ahead of the visit that it was seeking further energy agreements with China, the largest buyer of Russian oil. During Putin's last visit in Sept 2025, Russian gas giant Gazprom said both sides had agreed to move forward with Power of Siberia 2, a prospective 2,600-km pipeline to carry 50 billion cubic metres of gas per year from Russia to China.

China has said very little publicly about the project.

While Xi said on Wednesday that cooperation in energy and resource connectivity should be the "ballast stone" in China-Russia relations, he did not mention the pipeline. Key issues such as gas pricing remain unresolved, and analysts expect negotiations could take years. The Kremlin said both sides had reached a "general understanding on the parameters" of the project, although no details or timeline were agreed. REUTERS

Reuters



Xi & Putin in Beijing on Wednesday

# The GOPfather: Trump shows total control over party

**Chidanand Rajghatta** | TNN

**Washington:** In the Grand Old Party (GOP), as the Republican Party is called, Senators once strode around Capitol Hill like feudal barons, House committee chairmen wielded power like medieval dukes, and Presidents often had to negotiate with their own party stalwarts. In Donald Trump's MAGA-fied Republican Party, the operating principle is simpler: The President is king, kiss the ring, and hope your primary party rival doesn't suddenly receive a Truth Social blessing at 2.13am.

The latest evidence of Trump's command over the party arrived this week in Texas, where he endorsed Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton against veteran Senator John Cornyn, co-chair of the Senate India Caucus, in a Republican Senate runoff. The endorsement landed in Washington like a mafia don publicly replacing a longtime lieutenant with a younger enforcer, even as in another party primary in Kentucky, Thomas Massie, a maverick Congressman who stood up to the MAGA supremo, was drubbed by Ed Gallrein, a Trump-backed Navy Seal.

Cornyn, a four-term senator and an establishment pillar, had spent months delicately auditioning for Trump's approval, dutifully aligned himself with MAGA priorities. It didn't matter; Trump instead chose Paxton, a man with enough legal and ethical baggage to require his own airport carousel, but whose real qualification is even greater loyalty to the boss than Cornyn could summon. The message to party factotums was unmistakable: experience is optional, ideology negotiable, electability overrated – but fealty to Trump is a must.

The GOP establishment led by Senate Republican leader John Thune had preferred Cornyn, because, aside from his experience, polls show him beating the Democratic candidate James Talarico, whereas Paxton is vulnerable against him. But Trump dumped Cornyn anyway to reinforce his control of the party. Last week, Louisiana Senator Bill Cassidy, who voted to convict Trump after the Jan 6 insurrection, suffered a similar fate at the hands of a Trump-backed challenger.

Trump's dominance now extends beyond elections into the daily functioning of govt itself. Commentators in Washington increasingly compare the atmosphere around the administration to a patronage empire in which loyalty is rewarded and dissent punished with efficiency worthy of the former USSR. Cabinet members echo Trump's language almost verbatim and Republican lawmakers fall over each other to defend policy reversals they once opposed, often appearing alongside the President displaying cloying sycophancy worthy of North Korea, whose dispensation the MAGA boss openly admires.

Recent controversies involving tax enforcement and ethics oversight have only intensified accusations that institutions once designed to act independently are now operating with extraordinary deference toward Trump, his family, and his business interests. The White House rejects such claims as partisan hysteria, but even conservatives outside MAGAsphere concede that no modern president has exercised this degree of personal command over his party and administration.

That may explain the central paradox of Trumpism in 2026: Trump's national approval ratings remain dismal, especially among independents and suburban voters. Yet inside the GOP, he is the boss because he did not merely inherit the Party; he has rebuilt it in his own image. Voters who once cared about fiscal conservatism or foreign policy now prize cultural combat, media warfare, and loyalty to Trump above everything else.

The party's ecosystem reinforces this dynamic daily. MAGA media personalities, activist groups, donors, and influencers all function as an interconnected loyalty network in which deviation from Trump means political suicide. A senator can survive poor polling, but surviving a Trump nickname is harder. So Republican politicians continue their choreography of devotion. Some do it enthusiastically; others do it with the haunted expression of hostages reading prepared statements. Dissenters like Cassidy and Massie go into the dustbin of party history.

Reuters

The Trumps at the Congressional Picnic at the White House

## Yunus ex-aide blames his govt's Islamist outreach for 'return' of Awami League

**Dhaka:** A former adviser of the Muhammad Yunus-led interim govt turned against his ex-boss, claiming reasons such as the administration's minimal reforms, inaction over persecution of minorities and it "embracing" hardline Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) in order to contain BNP, made way for the officially banned Awami League to "effectively" return to Bangladesh's political arena, **reports Ahsan Tasnim.**

It was during the Yunus-era that the ban on JeI — heavily implicated in war crimes during 1971 Liberation War — was lifted and Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League banned under the anti-terror law, following her ouster as PM in 2024.

The League returned the day extremists attacked shrines and drove dissenters out of mosques, people remained silent over persecution against Hindus and regressive cultural systems such as Inqilab Islamic culture were promoted as a grand alternative to Bengali nationalism, ex-information and broadcasting adviser Mahfuj Alam, who was also a special assistant to then chief adviser Yunus, said in a post on Tuesday night.

Referring to the alleged influence of JeI over the Yunus administration, Mahfuj claimed anti-independence forces positioned 2024 against 1971. Awami League returned as "people within the interim govt began working for the rise of the right wing", he said, adding students — after the uprising — "failed to transform into a revolutionary organisation and instead turned into lumpen clubs and mobs".

"The League returned the day people who believed in secular values became fearful of the state-sponsored rise of the right wing. The League returned the day mobsters were turned into heroes. Safe spaces were created for extremists," Mahfuj said. However, another former adviser Asif Nazrul, replying to Mahfuj's post on Wednesday, said, "The League hasn't come back; they were already there. What has come back is their arrogance, falsehoods, and audacity to mislead people."

## US escalates tension with Cuba, indicts Raul Castro

Former Cuban president **Raul Castro** has been indicted in the United States, a senior Trump administration official said on Wednesday, in a move that marks an escalation in Washington's pressure campaign against the Caribbean island's communist govt.

The indictment comes as US President Donald Trump has pushed for a regime change in Cuba, where Castro's communists have been in charge since his late brother Fidel Castro led a revolution in 1959.

Historically, US indictments of foreign leaders are rare. The US has imposed a blockade on Cuba by threatening sanctions on countries supplying it with fuel, triggering power outages and exacerbating its worse crisis in decades. Castro, 94, served as Cuba's defence minister before assuming the presidency in 2008 after his brother fell ill. Fidel died in 2016.

Raul Castro stepped down from the presidency in 2018 but remains a powerful figure in Cuban politics. Havana has not commented directly on the threat of an indictment, though foreign minister Bruno Rodriguez expressed defiance in public comments on May 15.

Born in 1931, Raul Castro was a key figure alongside his older brother in the guerrilla war that toppled US-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista. Raul also helped defeat the US-organised Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961. Trump says Cuba's communist govt is corrupt, and in March threatened that Cuba "is next" after Venezuela. REUTERS

### Woman dies after falling into a manhole in NYC

**New York:** A 56-year-old woman fell into an open maintenance hole on a busy New York City street and died, police and utility officials said as they investigated how it could have happened. The woman, Donike Gocaj, parked her Mercedes-Benz SUV right next to the maintenance hole on Monday night near the corner of Fifth Avenue and East 52nd Street in Midtown Manhattan and fell in after exiting the vehicle shortly before 11.30pm, police said. She was pronounced dead at a local hospital after firefighters pulled her out. The utility company Con Edison said surveillance camera footage appeared to show that the hole cover was dislodged by a multi-axle truck that drove over it about 12 minutes before the woman fell in. The accident happened in an upscale shopping area and is about four blocks from Trump Tower. AP

## UK diplomat who filled in for Mandelson exits too

Britain's second-most senior diplomat in Washington, **James Roscoe**, has left his post abruptly without any public explanation for his departure. The UK's foreign ministry issued a short six-word statement: "James Roscoe has left his post".

According to a newspaper, Roscoe was facing questions about how details of a top-secret national security meeting to discuss a US request to use British military bases at the start of the Iran war were leaked to a journalist. He could not immediately be reached for comment. His departure is the latest diplomatic challenge Britain has faced in its dealings with the United States in recent months.

In Sept, the then ambassador, Peter Mandelson, was fired after it emerged that his links to the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein were more extensive than had previously been known. His successor Christian Turner, who took up the job in Feb, was embarrassed last month when he said in leaked comments that it was "extraordinary" that the US political system had failed to hold "very senior people" to account who were friends with Epstein.

Turner also said that the US' only "special relationship" was "probably Israel", not Britain. Roscoe's departure also comes at a time when there have been disagreements between President Trump and UK PM Keir Starmer over the Iran war. Roscoe was appointed to the role in July 2022. Between Sept 2025 and Feb 2026, he served as chargé d'affaires to the US after Mandelson's ouster. REUTERS

## Murdoch to buy Vox podcast, New York Magazine

James Murdoch agreed to acquire New York Magazine and the Vox Media podcast network in a deal that will expand his portfolio and stands to boost his influence over news and entertainment. "This acquisition reflects our interest in the forward edge of culture and our deep commitment to ambitious journalism," Murdoch, the younger son of media mogul Rupert Murdoch, said in a statement. His company Lupa Systems will buy both properties from Vox Media.

The deal, valued at more than $300 million, gives Murdoch control of a storied magazine and a podcast division whose reach rivals that of cable television news networks, according to several people with direct knowledge of the acquisition. The politics news site Vox.com is also included in the deal. REUTERS

## Indian writer of 'Mehendi Nights' also under attack

▶Continued from P1

Caribbean judge Sharma Taylor had praised Nazir's entry as "polished and confident", adding that its "melodic voice" lingered "long after the final line".

American author Daniel Friedman wrote on X that judges failed to recognise "all hallmarks of AI writing", describing the story as rambling, clichéd and plotless. Ethan Mollick, an AI professor at Wharton, wrote on Bluesky: "In a Turing Test of sorts, it looks like a 100% AI generated story just won Commonwealth Prize for Caribbean region."

Critics dug through Nazir's LinkedIn and Facebook accounts, alleging his profile picture and posts were AI-generated as he promoted AI tools.

The controversy quickly widened. Indian Sharon Aruparayil, 25, won Asia regional prize for "Mehendi Nights", set in a Mumbai chawl. Her story also came under attack after British site UnHerd published an article titled "Invasion of Literary Bots", alleging the prose was "slop-ridden" and packed with semicolons — which critics described as another AI marker.

Sharon Aruparayil

Commonwealth Foundation, which administers the prize, said judges had deliberately avoided AI-detection software because entries were unpublished fiction. The foundation said none of the five regional prizes were under review because shortlisted writers had twice declared no AI was used. After allegations surfaced, writers were contacted again and "reconfirmed their original answers", it said.

Foundation's director-general Razmi Farook said uploading unpublished manuscripts into AI checkers raised concerns over "consent and artistic ownership". He acknowledged AI-detection tools existed but said they were "not infallible". Until reliable systems emerged, the foundation would continue operating "on principle of trust", Farook said.

The stories were published on literary magazine Granta's website, each carrying an editor's note saying speculation over possible AI use was being taken seriously but stories would remain online "until definite evidence comes to light".

Publisher Sigrid Rausing said more than one entrant had faced allegations. She said Granta asked Claude AI whether Nazir's story appeared machine- generated, and the chatbot replied it was "almost certainly not produced unaided by a human". "It may be that prize has been awarded to an instance of AI plagiarism — perhaps we'll never know," Rausing said.

## Dropping tax cases and audits part of Trump's IRS settlement

President Donald Trump scored a major legal victory over the internal revenue service on Tuesday as the agency he has long reviled was barred by the justice department from continuing any "known and unknown" probes into his tax returns.

The one-page agreement signed Tuesday by acting attorney general Todd Blanche adds to a controversial settlement struck on Tuesday in which Trump agreed to drop a $10 billion lawsuit he filed against the IRS in Jan over a 2019 leak of his tax records to the press. Under the deal, the IRS is "forever barred" from pursuing "any and all claims" or demands for damages that have been or could have been filed against Trump before the agreement was reached. The accord represents a major triumph by Trump over an agency he has criticised for years for auditing his finances, but it's opened up the administration to criticism from Democrats and ethics groups.

"The settlement is an abuse of the tax and legal system," Brandon DeBot, policy director of NYU's Tax Law Center, said. The justice department referred calls to the IRS, which didn't return a message seeking comment. BLOOMBERG

## DAILY PLANET

### Yang Shuang-zi of Taiwan wins Int'l Booker Prize for historical romance

Taiwanese author Yang Shuang-zi and translator Lin King won the International Booker Prize on Tuesday for "Taiwan Travelogue," a historical romance set in Japan-occupied Taiwan in the 1930s. It is the first novel written in Mandarin Chinese to win the prize for fiction translated into English. British novelist Natasha Brown, who chaired the judging panel, called it a "captivating, wryly sophisticated" book that plays with themes of language and power and offers the reader surprises along the way. The novel purports to be a travel memoir by a Japanese novelist on a culinary tour of Taiwan and charts the — fictional — writer's complex relationship with her local interpreter. Brown said the book explores class and colonialism, asking: "Can love overcome a power imbalance?" She said it "pulls off an incredible double act: It succeeds both as a romance and as an incisive postcolonial novel." Yang, who writes fiction, essays, manga and video game scripts, has said she "wanted to untangle the complex circumstances" of Taiwan's time as a Japanese colony.

**Two humpback whales set new record with epic Aus to Brazil journey:** Two humpback whales have set new records for the longest-known distances travelled for their species by embarking on a journey of over 14,000km between Brazil and Australia, scientists said Wednesday. The international team of researchers were able to piece together the separate odysseys from photos of the whales' tails captured decades apart. Every humpback has a pattern on the underside of their tail — or fluke — that is unique "like a human fingerprint", Cristina Castro, a marine biologist said. The scientists analysed more than 19,000 photos taken between 1984 and 2005 in eastern Australia and Latin America using an image recognition algorithm. Then they sifted through each potential match to trace the two whales' journey.